

If you find yourself with an afternoon off work and have the urge to take to the water in more than just a swimsuit, why not try canoeing or wind-surfing?
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With busy adult children, many senior citizens face solitude and loneliness. Tian Qilong solved this problem by opening a tea shop.
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The three-day Hanhai auction was like a feast to all the collectors and art lovers who previewed treasured articles rarely seen in public.
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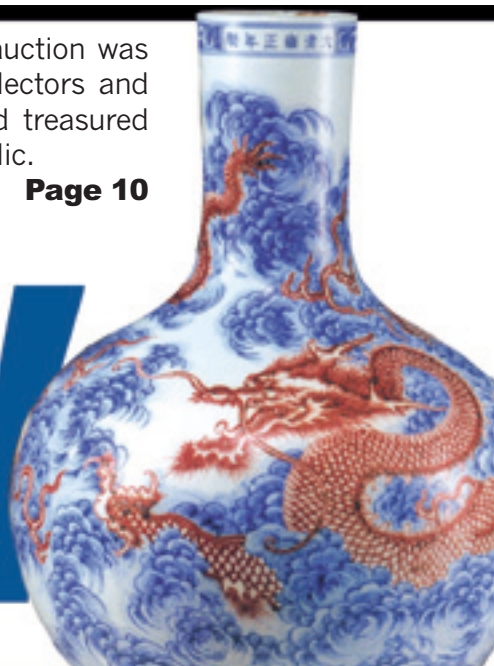
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No Resolution with China, Japan Trade Talks

China and Japan failed to resolve their trade disputes after negotiators concluded their two-day talks in Beijing Wednesday. Both sides agreed to hold more talks as early as possible.

The Chinese delegation, led by Guo Li, director of the Foreign Trade Department of MOFTEC, is composed of 23 officials from four Chinese ministries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and MOFTEC and the State Administration of Quality Supervision and Quarantine.

The Japanese delegation, led by Tanaka Hitoshi director of the Economic Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is composed of 25 officials from four Japanese ministries,

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and the Japanese Embassy in Beijing.

On April 23 this year, the Japanese side started temporary protective measures against three farm products, spring onions, shiitake mushrooms and straw for tatami mats, which are mainly imported from China.

China announced on June 21, that from June 22 onward, it would impose 100 percent punitive tariffs on imports of Japanese-made automobiles, mobile phones and air conditioners in response to Japan's discriminative treatment of some Chinese export products. (Xinhua)



Journalists follow the heated talks.

Photo by Gloom

China Cancels Telephone Installation Charges

By Bao Yan

Have you ever got a happy feeling when you were refused? Chen Sheng, a bus driver, had such an experience yesterday morning at the Beijing Telecom Zaojunmiao Service. It was really a happy surprise for Chen when they refused his payment of 1000 yuan, close to U.S. \$120, for his telephone installation.

"They told me that telephone installation charges are canceled forever," Chen said, "I think I could buy an excellent sport bicycle for my son with the extra money."

Chen is among millions of beneficiaries in China.

From July 1, Chinese subscribers no longer need to pay the high fees the government had levied on the installation of telephones (including mobile phones), according to a circular released by the Ministry of Information Industry and the Ministry of Finance.

All other government levies related to the installation and use of telephones will also be canceled at the same time, the document says.

According to the new policy, new subscribers will only pay 235 yuan (U.S. \$27.60) per telephone for the cost of materials and equipment, compared with 1,235 yuan (U.S. \$145.30) including installation charges and 515 yuan (U.S. \$60.60) for an ISDN

connection. The price was originally 1,515 yuan (U.S. \$178.20).

"Phone subscription charges introduced in 1979 were a special policy of the government to boost the development of China's telecom industry," an official of the Ministry of Information Industry of China, Zhang Xiaotie, said.

"The policy had been working for China's telecom industry by collecting money during the past 20 years. However, there is no need to continue," he said. "It is unnecessary to get money by levying fees on the installation."

Now that China's telecom industry is able to meet demands and alleviate the economic burdens on customers, the government has made a decision to cancel such charges, Xinhua News Agency quoted an official of the Ministry of Finance as saying.

The policy changes will save telephone and mobile phone subscribers about 20 billion yuan a year, he added.

The government made no hint that it was planning to cancel the charges prior to July 1. Many people now wonder if there are more such good surprises on the way. According to some well-informed sources, the sudden policy changes are only the beginning of the structural adjustments of the China telecom industry before China's entrance to the WTO this November.



Refurbishment of the Chairman Mao Memorial Hall is complete. During the last two years, the memorial rooms for Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi and Zhu De, constructed in 1983, have been redecorated and enhanced. Meanwhile memorial rooms for Deng Xiaoping and Chen Yun have been added to the hall.

A foreign visitor waits to enter Chairman Mao Memorial Hall.

Photos by Jackey

New Look for Chairman Mao Memorial Hall

By Dai Ningfang
Zhang Shixin

In the early morning, visitors made a long line at the entrance. Zhang Shiping from Hunan province said, "I heard on the radio yesterday that some new things were added to the Hall so I came today especially to see the addition."

On the second floor are memorial rooms featuring achievements of six Chinese revolutionary leaders, namely, Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi, Zhu De, Deng Xiaoping and Chen Yun. In each room, a statue is placed in the center with an array of his important pictures and documents shown on the walls in chronological order. The floor space is about 140 square meters. All pictures embedded in the advanced PC board are displayed on walls, which brings the audience much closer to the exhibits.

According to Li Junchun, the veteran researcher of China Revolutionary Hall and designer of the show at Chairman Mao Memorial Hall, the major purpose of this readjustment is to highlight

the splendid achievements made by the six leaders in China's revolutionary history. For instance, the microphone used by Chairman Mao at the first CPPCC in September of 1949; Manuscripts of Zhu De's military report in 1943 and Deng Xiaoping's handwritten letter to Hu Jieqing, the wife of well known Chinese writer Lao She, about Lao She's rehabilitation.

A great portion of the pieces on display are being shown to the public for the very first time, including scripts in Russian which records the report submitted to the Communist International on the Long March of the Red Army. This script was first published in an inside publication of the Chinese Communist Party on July the first, this year.

The leaders' relatives or staff members who worked closely with them donated many relics. Some of the donations include Chairman Mao's suit, hat and badge worn at the founding ceremony, Deng Xiaoping's clothes worn on the 35th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, as well as the clothes he wore

during a hospital stay in his late years. A receipt of donated money by an "old party member" to the Hope project is also on display.

The documentary film entitled Grand History, which has been shown at Chairman Mao Memorial Hall since 1983, is replaced with a more informative one - In Memory. The length of this new film is just 20 minutes, but it gives a retrospective of the life-long achievements of the six leaders.

Notice

Dear readers:

The International Olympic Committee will hold its 112th Session in Moscow from 13 to July 16 2001. During the Session, the IOC will elect the host city of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008 on July 13. To bring you the result of the election, we will publish our next issue of Beijing Today on July 14 rather than July 13.

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI

北京青年报
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Face-lift for Dilapidated Courtyard House

By Zhang Peng / Xia Lei

Mr. Ge has lived at No. 12, Lianziku Hutong in Dongcheng District for more than 37 years. His courtyard house is run-down after years of lack of repair. The compound is 70 centimeters below the outside street level and turns into a swimming pool during the rainy season. However he and the other res-

idents of the compound will move out soon, and when they return after 2 months, it will have been repaired and restored to its original state as a Siheyuan, or courtyard home. According to the Dongcheng Housing Administration, a pilot project for repairing 25 old houses has been launched by the municipal government. Sixty-one families living in 8 compounds will benefit from the

project. The head of the administration says that old houses are treasures of the city, they want to repair and restore the old courtyard houses rather than replace them with new buildings. The repair work on No. 12 Lianziku Hutong, a Qing dynasty courtyard house will restore it to its original appearance. A traditional Chinese style gate will be erected at the entrance to the compound,

all the families will have their own kitchen and, water pipes will be connected to each house. Inside there will be more space for residents to plant flowers and trees. A further seven compounds in the area will also be repaired at the same time. In 5 years, an area featuring traditional Chinese style compounds will bring people a sense of a modern city with traditional culture.

Regulations on Certified Lawyers Published

The "Beijing Regulations on Certified Lawyers" (for trial implementation), China's first regulation on certified lawyers, made its appearance Tuesday.

China resumed the lawyer system in 1979. By June 30, 2001, Beijing had 417 registered law offices, with 5, 268 certified lawyers, involved in the fields of politics, culture and the economy, and playing active roles in protecting people's legal rights and interests, as well as promoting "governing the country in accordance with law".

Wu Xiaoji, director of the Beijing Municipal Lawyers' Association, said that the regulations aim to readjust the actions of certified lawyers, and provide a standard for judging lawyers' competence.

(Xinhua)

Bank Loans for Medical Expenses

By Chen Li

Deaf children in Beijing are eligible to receive a loan to cover medical expenses as of July. The "Health Care" program is launched jointly by Beijing Branch of Shenzhen Development Bank and Tong Ren Hospital. The loan will be granted to deaf children under 5 years old to install an artificial organ to restore their hearing ability. The operation usually costs around 200,000 yuan.

The cooperation between banks and hospitals is an effort to help deaf children return to the world of sound. However, the loan requires mortgage. Applicants must bring their children to the hospital for a check-up and medical report in order to qualify for the loan. According to an official with the bank, they will further their scope of business for medically related loans. It is expected that loans for liver and kidney transplants, as well as treatment for heart diseases, will be granted soon.

Advance Payment Necessary for Certain Mobile Users

By Li Jingli

For buyers of internationally connected mobile phone since July 1, please note, according to Beijing Mobile Communications Corporation, beginning on July 1, if your unpaid fee exceeds 270 yuan, Beijing Mobile will notify you to pay in advance at least 300 yuan. If the customers won't pay the required sum after the fee exceeds 300, then Beijing Mobile would terminate their service.

This measure reflects Beijing Mobile's reaction to the cancellation of the connection fee on mobile services. Ba Fenglian, manager of the marketing department in Beijing Mobile, said the change of the connection contract was part of their efforts to reduce the risk of malicious fee default from users. Ba added, there was no change for users before July 1.

By Li Jingli

Individual shares auction gets cold shoulder in Beijing

The market reaction to the auction of individual shares on June 30 in Beijing was rather passive. Among the 13.60 million individual shares of seventeen companies in Chengdu Depository Center, only 270,000 shares changed hands, while most of the shares left behind.

The first auction of individual shares in Beijing lasted only half an hour with seven attendants and no competition at all. Among the seventeen companies under auction, only shares from Kebang Telecom, Zhongxin Nami, Gaoke, Huatuo were sold over ten thousand.

Gao Zhiguang, senior advisor of Jianya Era Auction Company, viewed the results calmly, and said that the preliminary goal has already been achieved. According to him, the company might hold another auction of individual shares.

The companies under this auction try to attract buyers by claiming that they would list on the Venture Board, just as those in Shanghai and Guangzhou. The materials provided by the company in charge of this auction include the introduction and investment value analysis of the companies under auction. In the analysis of listing outlook, those companies unanimously claimed that it was possible, or even probable, for them to list on the Second

Board or A share market. Some companies even said that listing on Second Board was almost a sure thing.

Auction houses obtain the information about companies under auction through agencies. For auction houses, the major issue is to guarantee the credibility of the companies' information, especially their financial information. Gao said, the investigation done by auction houses on the companies under auction was only a general check to make sure that it is legal.

The auction of individual shares in Shanghai was terminated, mainly because of post-auction stock transfer problems. But Gao said for transfers, there was no problem. Depositors and auction houses should take relevant responsibilities. In case that transfer could not be made, the depositor would make a compensation to the auction house and the auction house would then compensate the buyer in turn. He said the termination of this auction was due to illegal ownership of individual shares.

In other countries, share transfer is seldom made through auctions, while in China, the auctions of legal person shares and individual shares have started to emerge. Some specialists attribute this to the lack of normal means for stock transfer and circulation. They said with the launch of the Venture Board, and as local and regional securities exchanges started to be founded and operated, stock auction would diminish.

Individual Shares Auction Gets Cold Shoulder



Auctioneer taking bids

Photo by Chen Shuyi

Beijing Today published its first issue on May 11, 2001. Bedding's first local English language newspaper, it is run by Beijing Youth Daily and comes out every Friday. Beijing Today will show you a dynamic city with its ancient and yet modern flavor.

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2nd Ring Road to Be Renovated

By Liang Qi

Beijing is to renovate its Second Ring Road because of earth subsidence, chipped surfaces on sections of the road and mounting traffic demand.

The renovation work will include resurfacing the road, constructing new branch roads and pavements, and the creation of green belts beside the road.

Since the concept of integrated urban construction was not well developed when the Second Ring Road was built, it was designed for low capacity.

Built separately, with the advance of city reconstruction,

crossroads linked up with it later. Though Beijing already has a Third and Fourth Ring Road, the Second Ring Road still collects a large proportion of urban traffic due to its location at the city center. This has caused earth subsidence and chapped road surfaces in some sections of the road indeed.

The reconstruction is part of the project to consolidate the city's road network. The College Road (Xueyuanlu), Dewai Avenue, Xiwai Avenue - all extended lines of Lotus Pool (Lianhuachi), to be completed in July, will hopefully form a traffic-free expressway with the Second and Third Ring Road.

Jingkai Highway Opens

Beijing's South Gate Becomes Wider

By Xia Lei

Bedding's South Gate becomes wider as the Beijing section of Jingkai Highway opened on June 28. It is also part of the No.106 National Route. It starts from Yuquanying Cross, in the south of Beijing and ends at Gu An Bridge, in Hebei Province. It is 42.65 kilometers long. It will be free of charge for a certain period of time, according to the practices of the highway.

Bi Yuxi, president of Capital Expressway Development Co. Ltd., said that the highway would allow speeds between 80 to 120 kilometers per hour. It took 24 months to build - 10 months ahead of time.

Lawns and trees are planted along the highway, which has formed



New Jingkai Highway

Photo by Chung

a green belt along the road. The area of plantation has reached 927,000 square meters and is equivalent to 60 % of the total area of the highway.

Daxing County is the starting place of the highway. The price of its real estate has risen after the opening of the road. Some heads of real estate companies said that the price of the houses along the highway in Daxing has risen from 500 to 1,000 yuan.

Sinopec Road Show for 10 Billion



By James Young

Sinopec chairman Li Yizhong will account for 3.23% of its total shares, state owned shares will account for 77.42%, and H shares (Hong Kong listed shares), 19.35%. The issue could become China's biggest ever stock offer for domestic investors.

"The issue of A shares will further strengthen our capital base and open a new financing channel," according to Sinopec chairman Li Yizhong.

"With the proceeds from the A-share issue, we will be able to fine-tune the integration of the company's upstream and downstream operations," he said, adding that this would result in improved operational efficiency and lower costs for Sinopec.

Issue Price to Be "Within Set Range"

Sinopec said in a statement that the issue price of the A shares would be "within a fixed range" and determined by the book-building process. It announced that listed petrol companies' average P/E (price to earnings ratio) on domestic market is 32 times, implying that its P/E would take that figure as a reference. Earlier an analyst at ING Barings estimated the price range for the 2.8 billion share offering would be between 3.3-4.0 yuan (\$0.40-0.48) per share. "Based on this price range, the P/E for Sinopec A shares will be 12 to 15 times, which is low for A shares, and indicates the company is pretty conservative on pricing," she said.

Shanghai and Shenzhen A shares, which are only available to domestic investors, have recently peaked at over 50 times P/E, boosted by investors with ample savings but few other investment options.

The company intends to use about 6.45 billion yuan of the proceeds from the offering to finance its acquisition of a 100% stake in Sinopec National Star Petroleum from its parent, it said. Another 1.47 billion yuan and 2.44 billion yuan of the proceeds would be used to develop the Ningbo-Shanghai-Nanjing Crude Oil Import Pipeline Project and the Maoming-Guizhou-Kunming Refined Oil Pipeline in eastern and southwestern China respectively.

Biggest Ever A-Share Issue

The A-share offer will be China's largest domestic stock offering, eclipsing Baoshan Iron and Steel's debut in November 2000, which raised net proceeds of 7.7 billion yuan (\$930 million). The A share market in China is dominated by retail investors who typically target small companies whose prices are more volatile and easier to manipulate - thereby offering quicker returns.

Baosteel's IPO was oversubscribed, but compared to typical Chinese offers, which can easily double or triple in the secondary market, trading in China's largest steel firm has been relatively dull due to its large size.

Sinopec's shares are now traded in Hong Kong and New York, but ordinary Chinese are prevented from taking money out of the country for investments. So Sinopec's H shares currently trade at P/E of 6.13 times.

Although the issue will facilitate the acquisition of profitable new assets, it will slightly dilute the equity ownership of Hong Kong H-share holders.

Before the A-share issue, H-share holders held 20% of Sinopec's equity and the parent held 80%. Among strategic and corporate shareholders in Sinopec are BP, Hutchison Whampoa, Cheung Kong and Hong Kong & China Gas.

Sinopec's H shares ended up 2.68% last Friday morning at HK\$1.53 or 6.95 times of its projected earnings in 2001. They have risen about 23% so far this year, versus a 13% drop in Hong Kong's blue chip Hang Seng index.

According to the latest figures from Sinopec, the estimated price for A shares is 5.6-6.6 yuan, and the P/E will be fixed at 28 times.



Infected by H shares depression, Sinopec dropped to HK \$ 1.39 until it announced it was planning to issue A shares. On July 4 it closed at HK \$ 1.53.

Photo by Cui Hao



FST's stock price soared from 32 yuan (\$3.86) to peak at 42.98 yuan on May 15, just after the announcement of Yuxing's bid. During the following month, FST's share value fell again, due to uncertainty about the ultimate success of the takeover bid. On July 4 it was back to 32 yuan. (Above) Shareholders get physical conflicts at the meeting.

Photos by Zhao Yaming /Yong He

Conflicts over Ownership

Founder Group & Yuxing Fought with each other for ownership of FST. The stock price rose and fell unpredictably, and the Chairman was forced out. The conflict annoyed the minority shareholders, who eventually spoke with their fists and feet.

By James Young

Shareholder Meeting Farce

On the morning of June 28, Shanghai listed company Founder Yanzhong Sci & Tech's (FST) held its shareholder meeting at the Shanghai International Convention Center, at a cost of around 80,000 yuan for half day. When more than 1,000 disgruntled minority shareholders disrupted the meeting, Yan Chunhua, the temporary meeting convener, was forced to leave the venue with an escort of security guards. Voting tickets and ballot boxes were torn up, shareholders scuffled with guards and the meeting turned into a riot.

At 4 p.m. the meeting reopened. The 1000 shareholders had left and the voting favored the biggest shareholder, Founder Group. The 9 candidates named by Founder Group were all elected directors of the board. Chairman of FST Zhu Jianqiu failed to win re-election, and the takeover bid by Golden Yuxing was thwarted.

Yuxing attempts to take control of FST

Though the minority shareholders over-reacted at the meeting, they simply wanted to know the truth. They wanted to know why the Chairman, Zhu Jianqiu was being kicked off the board.

Two months ago, Peking University Founder Group, China's second largest personal computer maker, lost control of



Zhu Weisha



Yan Chunhua



Zhu Jianqiu

its key subsidiary FST in the face of an unexpected and aggressive acquisition attempt.

A union of six companies, led by Beijing Golden Yuxing Electronics and Technology, announced on May 10 that it had acquired a 5.4% stake in FST, 0.4% more than Founder Group's, to become FST's largest shareholder. The union proposed new candidates to replace FST's board members in a statement issued on May 11, taking many industry watchers and senior officials with FST by surprise.

"The decision was part of our long-term investment strategy to move into the information industry," said Zhu Weisha, Yuxing chairman and CEO.

Yuxing is a listed company on the Hong Kong Growth Enterprises Market. "The acquisition will help us integrate our advantages in information appliances with FST's power in information technology, and make it a win-win deal."

From late April to May 10, Golden Yuxing spent about 54.4 million yuan (\$6.5 million) to buy a 1.48 million stake in FST. As a tit-for-tat response, Founder Group immediately started to increase its FST share holdings.

However, in a statement on May 15, the group said that as of May 14, it held 935,100 shares in FST, accounting for 5.01%, while the Yuxing-led union took up over 5.4%. Incredibly, Founder retook control in just three days, ensuring that it would retain the right to appoint the convener at the upcoming shareholder's meeting.

Founder then fired FST chairman Zhu Jianqiu from its board, concerned that he would not follow their orders. The situation then became more complicated. FST showed a robust growth rate under Zhu's management, despite the downturn of the high-tech stock market. It aims to sell 1.6 million computers this year and achieve 15% of the domes-

tic market share, which could rank it among the five largest PC makers in the Asia-Pacific region. This is the reason the shareholders rioted at the meeting - they consider Zhu Jianqiu should not leave his position.

3 takeovers for Yanzhong

FST was one of the earliest listed companies on the Shanghai stock market in 1990. The original name was Shanghai Yanzhong. Because the stock has no state-owned shares, the company is susceptible to take overs. In 1993, Shenzhen Bao'an acquired 17.89% of its shares, giving it a controlling stake, before reducing its stake to 3%. Five years later, Founder Group announced that it had over 5.08%, giving it a controlling share. The situation remained the same until Yuxing's takeover bid.

The struggle for control of the company stimulated the stock prices of both companies. Yuxing saw more than 100% growth from 0.6 to over HK\$1.2 (7.7 US cents to over 15.4 US cents). FST's stock price also soared from 32 yuan (\$3.86) to peak at 42.98 yuan (\$5.19) on May 15, just after the announcement of Yuxing's bid. During the following month, Yuxing and FST's share value fell again, due to uncertainty about the ultimate success of the takeover bid.

After the meeting Yuxing acknowledged it had failed to acquire FST, meanwhile Zhu Jianqiu failed to acquire a seat on the new board.



Though being president of giant listed company Vanke is a 24/7 job for the man with a personal wealth of around 1 billion yuan, according to *Forbes* magazine, Wang Shi still finds time to go mountain climbing in the Himalayas. Wang is rare person in China, who divides his life between business and sports. He has learnt a lot from mountaineering. In the midst of some thorny business negotiations he likes to say to himself in face of his adversary, "I climbed an over 7000-meter high mountain, could you?"

Motorola ad-star

When Motorola were looking for a face to promote their business-use mobile phone A6288, they did not follow usual practice and choose a movie star or pop singer; instead they asked Wang Shi.

At the beginning of June, Motorola's PR manager called Wang Shi's office and asked him if he would be interested in playing the role of a businessman/sportsman in an advertisement. Wang has received, and refused, such invitations in the past. But this time he said yes. Ten days later, he was in Australia shooting the ad.

Ad-star Wang Shi

Real estate millionaire Wang Shi likes to be described as 'mountaineer'

He plans to donate the money from this lucrative sponsorship deal to the Chinese mountaineer team that in the past helped him on his mountain climbing expeditions.

Mountain lover

As the advertisement expresses, Wang Shi is a keen outdoor sports enthusiast, with a love of mountaineering and gliding. In 1995, Wang felt a severe pain in one leg; the subsequent physical examination indicated that he faced paralysis. Wang sighed, "go out for a walk, and prepare to become an invalid." But before that happened, he decided he wanted to climb a mountain. He chose



50-year-old Wang Shi sees himself as a young man.

Photo by Chen Shuyi

Everest, the highest in the world. Though surmounting many difficulties, he failed to reach the summit. But from then on, the pain had gone, and he was hooked on mountaineering.

Retired Millionaire

As well as mountaineering, Wang also enjoys gliding. He is a well-known netizen, often appearing in online chat rooms and is chief editor of *Vanke Weekly*, an influential magazine in China. Such activities take up the majority of his time these days, since retiring as General Manager of Vanke.

According to *Forbes*, Wang Shi has

some 1 billion yuan worth of assets in China. He founded Vanke in 1984. At that time, as well as real estate, the company was involved in international trade, franchise selling, and other businesses. When the economic bubble of the '80s burst, Vanke was hit hard, because of its wide exposure.

In the 1990s, Wang started concentrating on real estate, divesting the company of its other business interests. At that time he only entered into business deals that could deliver a 20% profit. He was considered a fool, because others were making profits of over 200% in the real estate sector. However when the bubble burst again in 1993, Wang survived and since then, Vanke has prospered.

Last Sunday Wang Shi appeared in a sina.com chat room. Although some netizens say he is just a showman, everyone at the chat room seemed to admire his lifestyle - living between business and sports.

We've selected Wang Shi, China's first entrepreneur ad-star, as our Biz Star this week for his much admired lifestyle. Every week we will profile a prominent business person. We invite you to nominate your choice for the week's most influential entrepreneur.

- Beijing Today staff

180 Billion Yuan in Traffic Networks and Eco-facilities

By Zhao Hongyi

The municipal government of Beijing has decided to invest 180 billion yuan (21.7 billion U.S. dollars) over the next five years to build more roads, railway, sewage processing plants and pipe lines, Mr. Guo Junqing, the standing deputy director of Beijing development and planning commission, said at the "International Symposium on Environmental Infrastructure Projects in Beijing" held on June 28-29.

According to the deputy director, the city will focus on the transportation and environment related construction projects, aiming to modernize the city's whole infrastructure and further promote the city's capability for sustainable development.

The metro projects include 6 lines and preparation for another two lines. By 2005, the city's total metro lines in operation, both over and underground railways, will reach 138 km, 85 km longer than the 53 km in 2000.

As for the highway system, the city will construct two more ring roads and three expressways.

Environmental projects include gas pipelines, sewage processing

plants and garbage disposals. The city will build a second pipeline to transmit natural gas from northern China's Shanxi Province, increasing its gas supply to 3 billion or 4 billion cubic meters in 2005.

The city will construct a number of water plants to increase its water supply to 3,680,000 cubic meters per day by 2005.

Six more sewage-processing plants will be built, increasing the sewage processing capacity to 1 million cubic meters per day. Therefore, the total capacity of drainage in urban area will be up to 85% and sewage treatment percentage over 90% in 2005.

The city will also further improve the treatment of garbage in the urban city. This will increase the disposal rate of all garbage in the city to 98%.

Preferential will be granted to attract investors. The preferential treatment includes franchise rights, tax and charges exemption, and compensation from a fund to be set up by the municipal government to fill in the gap between the contract price and the government set prices.

For more details, please visit the "Beijing Investment Platform" at: <http://www.bjinvest.gov.cn>.

Projects Released by the Beijing Municipal Government

Metro Projects	The Quick Transit Metro Line, Metro No.5, Ba(Bawangfeng)-Tong(Tongzhou) Metro Line, Chunyi(in Zhongguancun) Branch Metro Line, Wangjing(northeastern Beijing) Branch Line. Preparations for Metro No.4 and Metro No.9.
Highway Projects	Fifth Ringroad, Preparations for Sixth Ringroad, phase III of Badaling Expressway, Beijing Section of Jing(Beijing)-Kai(Kaifeng) Expressway, Jing(Beijing)-Mi(Miyun) Expressway.
Gas Pipeline	2 underground gas storage bases, 2 gas distribution pipelines, the second Shanxi-Beijing ling distance pipeline.
Heat Distribution Project	Huaneng Beijing Thermal Power Plant Heat Distribution Engineering, Shuangyushu Thermal lant Extension Project.
Water Processing Project	The Tenth Water Plant, Tiancunshan Water Plant, Southwest Suburb Water Deployment and Storage Plant.
Sewage Treatment Project	Qinghe Sewage Treatment Plant, Wujiacun Sewage Treatment Plant, Lugouqiao Sewage Treatment Plant, Xiaohongmen Sewage Treatment Plant, Xiaojiathe Sewerage Treatment Plant, Phase II of Beixiaohe Sewage Treatment Plant.
Garbage Handling Project	Gaoatun Garbage Burning(powe-generating) Plant, Dongcun Classified Garbage Comprehensively Treatment Plant, Tongzhou Integrated Garbage Disposal Plant, Fangshan Integrated Garbage Disposal Plant, Huairou Integrated Garbage Disposal Plant.

Sources: Beijing Development and Planning Commission

Guotong Joins Hands with Foreign Partner

By Zhao Hongyi

China is further opening its retailing market to the outside world.

Asian Financial Services Co., a subsidiary of the International Enterprises Services Group from the United States, is in discussion with Beijing Guotong Electric Co., one of the country's largest electric home appliances retailers, to form a possible joint venture in the near future, according to sources from the latter.

In the past several years, China has allowed several foreign retailing groups like Carrefour from France and Ikea from Sweden to establish their presence in the country, by means of joint venture or cooperative venture. But the discussion between Asian Financial Services Co. and Beijing Guotong Electric Co. indicates that China is moving on in the process because it is the first time that the country has allowed a foreign retailer to step into its electric home appliances market.

According to Mr. Dai Yunhua, Chairman of the Board of Guotong, at the very beginning of the joint venture, the American side will hold a 30% of the total share. The figure will increase gradually in the future. But Mr. Dai declined to give more details on the share holdings and the amount of capital the Americans brought.

In addition, Beijing Guotong is also discussing with the Asian Financial Services Co. about a possible listing on the U.S. stock market. Currently, Beijing Guotong has 20 chain stores over the country and realized a sales volume of 3 billion yuan in 2000.

Experts in the retail industry hold the view that with China entering the WTO, Chinese retailers should join together and practice a better, more disciplined free competition under the rules of the market game.



Photo by Zhuang Jian

Lincoln Intern'l Expects Greater Role in China

By Zhao Hongyi

"The development of China's retirement pension system needs a sophisticated financial market, a comprehensive legal system and an enforceable taxation system," said Mr. Philip Y. Lin to *Beijing Today* this week. Mr. Lin is the vice-president, associate general counsel and assistant corporate secretary of the Delaware Investments, an affiliate of the Lincoln Financial Group (LFG) in the United States. "Certainly, the retirement pension system under construction should be adaptable to Chinese society."

Like hundreds of other foreign financial companies, Delaware Investments, together with its parent company, Lincoln Financial Group, are in a hurry to position themselves in the potentially largest financial market of China, with China's approaching entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO).

An asset management corporation maintaining a significant position in the U.S. annuity service business, Delaware Investments built and owns five unique and distinct asset-management groups focused on specific investment including: U.S. growth equity, U.S. value equity, U.S. fixed income, international investments and structured portfolios, which makes it one of the leading and sophisticated investment companies in the U.S.

In the last several years, Delaware Investments has made significant contributions to certain regulatory and research projects for private pension system reforms currently being conducted by the Chinese government.

"With the continuing economic growth in China, we strongly believe that the asset management market will emerge as a new and vital industry in the country. Delaware Investments want to use its expertise in the fields like securities investment, funds management and pension system to cooperate with Chinese counterparts and facilitate the development of asset management here to create a better financial environment in the country," said Mr. Charles E. Haldeman, president and CEO of Lincoln National Investment Companies, Inc. and Delaware Investments.



Mr. Charles E. Haldeman



In the past decade, China is facing more and more severe unemployment situation. The floating population seeking jobs all over the country brings a challenge to the existing poll management. More scientific and practical management is needed .

Photo by Jackey

China to Better Its Management on HR

By Zhao Hongyi

"China will adjust its decade-long human resources market to meet possible competition from foreign intermediaries after its entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), said Mr. Tang Jun, deputy director general of the HR Development Dept. of the Ministry of Human Resources.

Rules and Regulations to Formulate the Current Market Practice

According to Mr. Tang, the Ministry is in the process of drafting three legal rules and regulations to formulate and promote the development of the country's human resources market. These regulations include "Rules for the Management of Human Resources Markets", "Regulations for the Management of Intermediary Services for Internet related Talents and Human Resources" and "Regulations for the Management of Service Institutions for Foreign Talents and Human Resources in China".

China's human resources market has seen a dramatic development in the past decade. But due to the lack of proper legal framework, the market is experiencing a distorted growth at present. Meanwhile, foreign institutions involved in human resources and talent hunting are already rushing into this market. These two factors lead to an urgent need for adjustment and formalization of the market.

"We are prepared to allow the entry of foreign intermediaries," said Mr. Tang, "but

we'll open the door gradually, for instance, to establish some joint ventures as a trial."

To set up large entity for human resources management

In the past decade, many human resource intermediaries have been set up over the country under sponsorship from governments of different levels.

"But these intermediaries lack modern and flexible market development strategies, thus can hardly survive in the future.

"One possible way to keep these entities functioning is to merge these entities into trans-area large scale groups," said Mr. Tang. "These groups can share their information of both human resources supplies and market demands."

"This will be one of the critical tasks in our tenth Five Year Plan."

As confirmed by the official, the Ministry will start its regular release of the information of human resources supply and demand on the basis of the whole nation from July/August.

To strengthen the management and protection of personal files

The Ministry is preparing for a nation wide check on the current individual files in an effort to remind people that the personal files are still important.

The overall check up is also designed to consolidate discipline for organizations and institutions handling those files and to prevent individuals making any false identities and records for commercial and other purposes.

CAAC to Purchase 400 Civil Aircraft

By Zhao Hongyi

China is planning to purchase 400 aircraft in the coming five years for civil aviation to keep the industry growing at a quick pace.

The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) plans to increase the country's total volume of passenger freight to 100 million per year by the end of 2005 and its cargo volume to 2.8 million tons.

"For the coming five years, it is rational for China's civil aviation industry to develop at a relatively faster pace," said Wang Zhi, director of the Planning Department of CAAC at the "Shanghai International Forum: 21st Century Aviation Electronics" held last week.

In 2000, China soared to No. 6 in the world in terms of passenger transport volume, while in 1978, it ranked 33rd. Statistics from CAAC indicate that China's passenger transport volume rose to 67.22 million and cargo volume to 1.97 million tons in the year 2000.

By the end of last year, China had 257 civil flight planes and the passenger planes in service, offering more than 92,000 seats.

As stipulated in the tenth "Five Year Plan" for 2001-2005, drafted and released by the central government, China will build 43 new airports in the next five years, 23 of which will be located in the western part of the country, and the same amount of which will be used for regional flights.



Photo by Fan Jiwen

Investment & Trade Fair Planned for Western China

An investment and trade fair will be held in Xi'ning, capital of China's Qinghai Province, in late this month with the purpose of encouraging eastern enterprises to take part in the adjustment of the western industrial structure.

The fair, jointly sponsored by eight provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities including Qinghai, Tianjin, Chongqing

and Guangxi, is believed to be another important move to push forward the country's western development strategy.

Activities to be held include an introduction of local products, commodities fair, a hi-tech achievements show, and forums and symposiums.

Organizers hope that the fair would help enhance cooperation

between eastern and western enterprises, readjust the old-fashioned industrial structure in the west, and stimulate the development of western economies with local characteristics.

A website specially for the fair, "www.qhwit.com", was recently launched to provide necessary information.

(Xinhua)

Sahtoosh Threatens Tibetan Antelopes with Extinction in 5 Years

By Zhang Xiaoxia

The Tibetan antelope will vanish from the planet in 5 years, according to a report released by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) on June 27. The impending extinction of the graceful animal, which inhabits only the remote plateaus of China's Tibet, Xinjiang, and Qinghai province, is due to the fact that there are only 75,000 of the antelopes left today and the number slaughtered every year for their fine wool, known as sahtoosh (king of wools) has reached 20,000.

The report, named "Wrap Up the Trade: An International Campaign to Save the Endangered Tibetan Antelope" clearly illustrates the current situation and gives a comprehensive account of the illegal trade. "This report highlights the urgent need for action to protect

the unique Tibetan antelope." Said IFAW President Fred O'Regan.

The IFAW/WTI report was compiled following an eight-month investigation in China, India and Nepal. The teams collected information and video footage of the illegal trade in antelope pelts in the border areas, and also began a socio-economic survey of an estimated 30,000-sahtoosh workers to determine possible impacts of a ban on sahtoosh weaving, and tried to identify a viable economic alternative for local weavers.



IFAW staff exhibit a section of sahtoosh. Photo by Yan Jun

Hundred Years' Tradition Meets New Tech at Quanjudu Roast Duck



Jiang Junxian, president of Quanjudu Group

By Li Shouen

Quanjudu, one of the most famous roast duck restaurants in China, has introduced a new high-tech method of roasting its ducks, both for the convenience of standardizing their franchise businesses and for the sake of environmental protection.

Quanjudu enjoys a high reputation among both domestic and overseas consumers for its special roasting technique and outstanding quality. In recent years, the restaurant has expanded its scale and now has many franchise businesses all over China. This expansion has posed the

problem of how to guarantee consistency at different sites by manual operation.

After over a year of experimenting, the technical staff have succeeded in developing a new technology. The ducks can now be automatically roasted in a specific oven with programs preset in the microchips. A precise calculation has been made for every step based on the roasting process by many experienced chefs, while retaining the same principle as the old process.

Furthermore, to keep the special fragrance that results from using the wood of fruit trees during roasting, they now coat the ducks with fruit syrup before sending them to the oven. So now, Beijing roast duck will taste the same, whether you eat it at Qianmen, Hepingmen, or Wangfujing, or any other Quanjudu restaurant in China.

Another important consideration is environmental protection. Traditionally, Quanjudu used the wood of fruit trees to roast their ducks. The revolutionary technical innovation uses cleaner energy sources such as electricity or gas, easing the environmental burden.



Contestants battling it out in the ring.

Photo by Jackey

Chinese Kung Fu Beats Japanese Karate

By Xiao Rong

Chinese Kong Fu heroes beat Japanese Karate players to win the final match of the 2001 Chinese Kong Fu King Challenge on Tuesday, even though 25-year-old Zhang Zhen from Chongqing lost the third round because of an unexpected injury.

"What we emphasize is not the final outcome of the challenge, but the participation of more and more foreign athletes," said Guan Jianmin, chief coach of China's Kung Fu Team. "Today's competition is more of a routine match of the Chinese Kung Fu King Challenge than a confrontation between China

and Japan. Our goal is to promote understanding and exchanges between Chinese Kung Fu and Japanese Karate."

"We have learnt a great deal from Chinese Kung Fu through this competition, especially defense skills in terms of throws, which is the weak point of Japan Karate." Said Dong Xiao, chief coach of the Japanese athletes. "In my imagination, Chinese Kung Fu was something wonderful, and it really is." Following Tuesday's Sino-Japanese competition, Korean boxers will take part in the Chinese Kung Fu King Challenge on July 24, and exponents of Thai kick boxing will be the next participants, in August.

By Su Wei

Kim Seung Kil, a 61-year-old retired Korean civil engineer and student at the Beijing Languages and Culture University, says he has saved three trees during the six months he has spent studying in Beijing.

He once calculated that 23,517 square meters of forest might be reduced to wasteland due to the consumption of disposable chopsticks by 5000 students over one year. "If such destruction continues, the pandas will have nothing left to eat," he says.

Kim came to Beijing to study Chinese half a year ago. He now regards Beijing as his home and the local people as his fellow townspeople. "China is very large with a population of 1.3 billion. Like many other countries, pollution may occur and protection of the environment may be ignored in the course of economic development."

Kim says he is greatly interested in China's role in environmental protection. He says "China has been successful in its economic progress and has shown the potential for further development. I believe that China will succeed in keeping a clean and beautiful environment. If it does, the world will have a much brighter future." When asked why he was so concerned about the environment, he said as a civil engineer, he has constructed some sewage treatment plants and has noticed that the grass and trees died near the dumping areas. He is also aware of the severe effects of waste if it is allowed to contaminate the underground water system. "I am proud of the work I did as a civil engineer, and when I retired I thought I also need to do something useful and meaningful. The older gen-

Kim Seung Kil's Crusade to Save Trees

eration should set a good example to the young people, for example, caring for the environment and doing their share in the protection work. In this way, we not only gain the respect of the young people, but also benefit future generations."

According to Kim, the polluted earth is like a cup full of ink, and the most efficient way to get rid of the ink is to flush it out with clean water, for the cup, or the earth, can not be tipped upside down. Therefore, the more clean water that is poured, the faster the earth will be cleaned again. "Since we only have one earth, it is everyone's responsibility to protect the environment for our descendants. I trust that China is sure to score achievements in protecting the environment and I sincerely wish China every success in this regard!"

Kim Seung Kil and his stainless chopsticks in a plastic box.

Photo by Su Wei



Modern Look for a Modern City

Sculptures are making Beijing streets more charming. This is taken on Xidan Street.

Photo by Li Yanming

Street Dancing Fun and Fitness Combined

By Su Wei

Almost every other weekday evening and every Sunday afternoon, Wu Shuang, a young woman working in a local scientific institute, comes to Tianxing Street Dancing Center at Yuetan Stadium to take part in the dancing classes.

The classes, held at the center for more than one year, have attracted women and men of all ages. Liu Yue, a former bodybuilding champion, designed the set himself. Liu says street dancing is suitable for people of any age group. People can follow the rhythm however they please. He emphasizes that street dancing is good for office workers who seldom exercise, saying it will refresh people after hard work. What's more, street dancing is a healthy way of releasing pressure, especially mental pressure. Liu says most participants are young people who see street dancing as more fashionable than other bodybuilding exercises and

a way of self-expression.

Wu Shuang, says most of the movements in street dancing are suitable to perform in public. So she can take a performance at the art festival held by her institute. She mentioned that street dancing will improving her physique, an important consideration for many people.

Liu Yang is a senior school student. Although this only the

second time he has attended a street dancing class and he doesn't dance all that well, he never feels embarrassed. The appeal for him is that apart from being a new fashion, street dancing is good training for coordination of each part of the body, which will further help him to fulfil his ideal of becoming an actor.

Photo by Su Wei



Carrying the Torch to Salt Lake 2002

New Beijing's Olympic Ambassadors

By Li Dan

28-year-old bodybuilding trainer Zhang Ran, and 35-year-old Red Cap newspaper deliverer Wang Yan were Tuesday named Olympic Torch Bearers for the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Relay after a keen competition. During the 65-day relay race from December 4, 2001 to February 8, 2002, the two will participate in carrying the torch across the entire USA, eventually arriving in Salt Lake City for the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics.

Sponsored by Coca-Cola and with the support of the Beijing Olympic Games Bidding Committee, there will be a total of 25 torch bearers from China, two of them from Beijing.

Zhang Ran, a handsome and active guy, says maintaining a strong physique and vigorous state of mind is his life goal. Born and bred in Beijing, Zhang Ran has witnessed the incredible progress and economic development of Beijing over the past 20 years. "I'll tell the world that Beijing is an ancient and young modern city and will finally host the 2008 Olympics!" Says Zhang Ran.

Wang Yan used to be a basketball player. She now works as a newspaper deliverer for the Beijing Youth Daily and is acclaimed for her kind-heartedness and the good service she provides every day. Her wonderful speech and ingenious answers to the judges left an indelible impression on those involved in the selection of torch bearers.

New Wells Provide Relief in Desert Area

Coca-cola has donated 1 million yuan to dig six wells to help relieve the drought situation in the Tian Mo area. Tian Mo is the nearest desert area to Beijing, just 75km away from Tiananmen Square.

Coca-cola recently purchased the Tian Mo area and has already planted a one million-tree green belt there. It is critical to provide water necessary to ensure the growth of the trees in the green belt and to protect the environment of Beijing and the neighboring countryside. On completion, the six wells will provide up to 50 tons of water per hour.

(Lao Zhi)



IC Card

Leads to

A Digital Beijing

By Xiao Rong

Beijing Municipal Administration and Communication Card Co.(BMAC) has just issued 100,000 IC cards in corporation with CITIC Industrial Bank since June 28. Without having to pay in cash, any passengers with the new communication IC card can take three bus routes (No.710, 711, 712) just by touching the card-reading machine with the IC card. All three of them have a set price regardless of the distance travelled. As to the distribution and renewal of the cards, passengers can go to the 16 branches of CITIC Industrial Bank and 45 local post offices.

After the trial operation, over 450 buses of another 17 routes with automatic card-reading machines (also belonging to the Beijing Bus Co. in addition to the former trial routes), will be put into use late this month.

Being a significant part of Beijing Municipal Administration and Communication System, the communication IC card has always been the focus of Beijing's municipal government. Nevertheless, certain drawbacks exist in addition to its advantages. Here are different opinions from different people at home and abroad.

Mr. Deng, driver of the No.710 bus of Beijing Bus Co.:

Since the distribution of the communication IC card last Thursday, there have been very few people who have used the card. Most people think it's not profit-



Photo by Xiao Rong

able, for there are only certain bus routes that accept the cards. But I have full confidence in the development of the IC card because the market potential in Beijing is very large.

Tracy Driscoll, British Council, Beijing:

I have been here in Beijing for five years, and I don't often take buses. But I think it's a great idea for Beijing to develop the communication IC card. I'm from Australia and in my country it's very convenient to buy different mag-

netic cards — monthly or yearly cards work out cheaper than daily or single trip ones. The IC card in Beijing can be reused so I think it's better for the environment.

Mr. Zhang, Dongdan Swimming Gymnasium:

I heard about the news of the distribution of the communication IC card on buses 710, 711 and 712. I think it will bring passengers more convenience. For example, we don't need to carry so much pocket money just for taking the bus. I had intended to

buy the card because I often take No.710. Yet to my disappointment, my search for the IC card at several post offices has been in vain. I suggest the BMAC and bus companies establish more branches so residents everywhere in Beijing can easily buy the card.

Mrs. Du, The Bureau of Diplomatic Personnel Services:

In my opinion, the idea of using communication IC cards will

gent Transport Systems Engineering and Technology Center:

There are four advantages for the use of IC cards in Beijing's public transportation. First, it can greatly reduce the wear and tear of money. Second, passengers who use the card needn't take so much trouble to prepare pocket money for the bus.

Thirdly, the phenomenon of using fake money can also be prevented. Finally, by distributing IC cards, bus companies can save money and labor so that one driver can manage one bus.

But, to a certain extent, the use of IC cards still needs further development and promotion. For one thing, the selling branches of CITIC

Industrial Bank should be extended more widely. For another, there should be certain encouragements for those who often buy lots of cards.

Bai Hongbo, associate general manager of BMAC:

The most important goal of our distribution of the card is to bring convenience and better service for local people. But it's a long-term project for the Municipal Administration and Communication System to establish. In addition, the IC card requires high technologies and advanced management. So we hope the public can give us enough time and patience to fully solve certain problems in our project. Our plan is to develop, step by step, so that every possible function of the IC card can be fully achieved.

Most people think the use of magnetic cards, or IC cards, come from western countries. Actually, the idea of the card has come from the West while its actual use has flourished in Asia—particularly Hong Kong. Anyway, the card is only a means of payment. The success or failure of the card pretty much depends on the cooperation of the customers.

Gao Hailong, National Intelli-

SOUND BITES

"Only when the companies which have gone to the market have improved their quality, and independent Directors have really played their roles, is it possible for old-age insurance to go to the market," said famous economist Li Yining recently. At the moment he considers old-age pensions too immature to enter the market.

"China will not initiate the open-end funds until August," said Liang Dingbang on June 28th. The issuing of opening funds will certainly meet great difficulties due to its complicated relationship with relevant laws such as the General Regulation of Civil Law.

"I am neither making exploration nor wandering aimlessly. I am just doing my share for society and the country, whether I walk along the roads of the Long March or travel around the world." Zou Yulin, a traveler of the world by foot, announced firmly. He likes to mention that only when his road combines with the path of society and the country can the road for the individual become wider and wider.

"China has ranked sixth among the contracting parties to the International Civil Aviation in the year 2000, while it was 33rd in 1978," said Wang Zhi, Director of the Planning Bureau and China Civil Aviation Bureau. His statement was made during the Aviation and Electricity International Forum of 21st Century in Shanghai.

He also mentioned if the amount of passengers transported in Hong Kong and Macao was also included, China would rank third in the world civil aviation passenger transportation figures.

"Last year, the turnover of passenger transport amount of China Civil Aviation was 67.22 million and the figure for volume of air freight was 1.97 million tons". (By Su Wei)

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By Wei Feng

A survey on changes in city dwellers' quality of life during the past five years was made by CCTV column *Life* and the Investigation Group of the State Statistics Bureau. The survey covers a sample of 3,000 households in ten cities across the country. The ten cities surveyed are Beijing, Datong, Harbin, Nanjing, Hefei, Luoyang, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Xi'an, and Lanzhou.

The survey shows that improvements have been made in terms of the income level, standard of life, living space and housing conditions, convenience and comfort of transportation, and job satisfaction:

In diet, people put more stress on nutrition and health.

In dressing, people pay more attention to style and quality of the material.

Commodities related to improved living standards or better communication have become the most popular.

A good salary has become the first target in job hunting.

The most desirable target in life has turned from "economic well-being" to "physical health and happy state of mind".

Less Time Spent in Cooking Greater Stress on Nutrition and Health

Five years ago, 50% of city families spent an hour or more than an hour preparing a meal. Today, only 39% are willing to do so, meanwhile the percentage of families who spend only half an hour preparing a meal has risen from 22% to 31%.

With the pace of life quickening, people are less willing to spend time cooking. In the meantime, various kinds of convenience foods, finished and semi-finished foods have become available, making it possible for people to spend less time preparing meals.

Couples with better education tend to spend less time cooking than those with less education.

Although city households now spend less time cooking than they did five years ago, they put more emphasis on nutrition and health.

The aspects of food that attract more attention include "checking the date of production and ingredients"(59%), "eat more vegetables and fruit"(56%), and "eat only natural and healthy food"(50%). Other aspects rated as important are "reduce the amount but increase the variety of vegetables on dinner tables"(44%), "avoid taking too much sugar and fat"(43%), "take different kinds of nutrition and well-balanced meals"(42%), and "avoid taking too much salt"(40%).

Lifestyle Changes for City Dwellers

More Emphasis on Quality of Material, Style and Color of Clothing

In dressing, style (40%), quality of material (37%) and that of underwear (36%) are ranked the three most important elements. Furthermore, 36% of city dwellers put greater emphasis on the color of clothing and 25% pay more attention to their hairstyles. We can safely say then people now pay more attention to the quality and individuality of their clothing.

Increased Means of Transportation Brings Greater Convenience and Comfort

90% of city residents say they enjoy more convenience and greater comfort now in transportation than they did five years ago.

Concerning city dwellers' means of transportation, although most people still go to work (or to school) by bike or by public transport, the percentage has fallen from 84% to 74%. The rest of the city population goes to work by motorcycle, minibus, taxi or by driving their own cars.

Enlarged Living Space and Improved Housing Conditions

The average per-capita living space has risen from 14.5 to 17.9 m². The proportion of households with an average per capita living space reaching 20 square meters has increased from 20% to 35%.

A dramatic change has occurred in city dwellers property rights in the past five years. 61% of the families surveyed have bought or are buying their own apartments.

As to housing conditions, people think the following aspects have been "greatly or moderately improved": convenience in transportation, hygiene and green spaces, security in the surroundings, kitchen and bathroom equipment, furniture, air-con or heating appliances, ventilation, design of closets, and heat and sound insulation.

Late Sleepers and Nap Takers Are Increasing in Number

Both five years ago and at present 55% of city dwellers get up between 6 and 7 am. The percentage of people rising before 6 has dropped from 24% to 20% while that of people rising after 7 has increased from 21% to 25%. Among the elderly, there are more early birds. Among the young, there are more late sleepers. There are some changes in people's timetables; more people choose to sleep late. Meanwhile, some people make use of afternoon nap to make up for inadequate sleep.

Life Styles and Habits

The first thing that more than half of the city dwellers "will surely

do or care about" or "will usually do or care about" is eating and nutrition. However, "regular test of blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood fat" and "participation in guided sports courses or activities" are ranked as less important. In other words, to achieve physical fitness, people focus more on eating but less on exercise and regular medical examinations.

Things that more than half of the city population "will certainly do" or "will often do" are as follows:

"have breakfast"(87%)

"make the three meals regular and the amount of food appropriate"(82%)

"look at the date of production and ingredients on the food package"(80%)

"make a schedule of work to keep things in good order"(74%)

"remain optimistic about and have confidence in life"(71%)

"be aware of the sources of pressures in life"(69%)

"be conscious of one's strengths and weaknesses"(68%),

"discuss personal problems and things one cares about with close friends"(66%)

"read books and magazines on promotion of health"(64%)

"feel one is growing and changing in a positive direction"(63%)

"offer complements on other people's achievements"(61%)

"make efforts towards the target"(60%)

"feel happy and content with life"(57%)

"make proper reaction to unreasonable requirements in work"(52%)

"see a doctor when anything is wrong"(51%).

Good Pay Becomes the First Target in Job Hunting

Among people who are employed, 22% are more satisfied with their jobs than they were five years ago. 18% are less satisfied.

Among people with more than two or three year's college education, 31% have greater contentment with their jobs. The percentage of less educated people is 19%. Well-educated people are more content with their jobs.

Concerning job transfers, people put three things at the top of the list. They are "good pay"(71%), "welfare and labor insurance"(50%) and "harmonious interpersonal relations"(36%). The other things that entered the list include "convenience in transportation"(33%), "fun of the job"(22%), "more opportunities and potential for development"(20%), "social status"(17%), "more holidays"(13%) and "fewer working hours"(11%).

The above statistics indicate at present people care more about income, welfare and working environment, but less about social status and working hours.

Weekly Survey

By Su Wei

More Taiwanese Support the "One Country, Two Systems" Policy

According to a survey conducted in Taiwan recently, the support rate for the "One Country, Two Systems" policy has increased to 33%, the highest point in history, about 10% higher than at the end of 1999. The survey also shows that four out of five are dissatisfied with the performance of the Taiwan administrative government over the past year. What's more, the rapid economic development in the mainland has greatly influenced Taiwan people. The survey shows that 24% of Taiwan people hope to settle in the mainland, about 9% more than in last survey.

Consumers are Optimistic

According to a recent report on the consumer confidence index, the consumption confidence index has decreased by 0.3% to 97.2 points compared with 97.5 points in April. But experts say from a general viewpoint, consumers remain optimistic.

However, it should be highlighted that the consumers are more worried about the outcome in family expenses. It is examination time and parents are facing increased education related expenditure.

Breakdown of Salaries in the Recent Talent Market

According to the report of the Market Newspaper, the demand for Financial Managers and Quality Guarantee and Maintenance Managers has increased sharply and their salaries have jumped accordingly. The demand for Financial Managers has long been stable but it has increased since the beginning of this year, especially in some high-tech collective enterprises and some shareholder companies, which are intending to going to the market. So the monthly salary for CPA is on average above 10,000 yuan.

The increase in salaries for Quality Guarantee and Maintenance Managers has been around 20%. The demand for talents skilled in the series of ISO9000 and ISO1400, QS (Quality Standards) as well as possessing a good command of English and management skills has far exceeded the supply in the current market. It is estimated the increased demand for such talent and the subsequent increase in their salaries will continue to last for a long time.

Salaries managers are still in demand this year, especially in the fields of Internet, circuit system, and food and beverage industry. However, the salary for sales managers has actually fallen to 12,000-25,000 yuan (before tax).

There are thousands of jobs on line. Why can't you just pick one?

I wouldn't settle for anything that is paid less than a monthly salary of 10,000 yuan.

Picture by Xie Feng

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J.H. Law office puts strong emphasis on internal co — operation and on our staffs acting responsibly to our clients as well as to each other with each and every job until it is satisfactorily done. We are, therefore, able to assemble a group of lawyers who are not only from universities of fame, but also very experienced and professional. At present, the business at J.H. Law office is divided roughly into these departments, namely: Finance, Capital Investment, Real Estate, Corporate Affairs, Labor and Insurance, Stock and bond, Research - Training and Social Investigation. Each department is staffed with qualified lawyers specialized in the field.

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Graduation Season

Biggest Graduation Celebration at Beijing University

It is time for graduates to celebrate their last holidays as students at Beijing University. More than 2300 graduates who have just been awarded masters or doctors degrees celebrated the completion of their studies on July 4.

The graduation ceremony was the biggest in China, with graduates from Beijing Medical University, which merged with Beijing University last year, also participating.



President of Beijing University Xu Zhihong (center), Secretary Wang Debing (right) and Deputy President Han Qide (left) are the busiest people during the ceremony, handing certificates to each of the graduates and posing with them for photos.



One year old baby congratulates daddy on his graduation.



Mother from South Korea comes specially to celebrate the happy occasion.



The happy moment is recorded for posterity.

Photos by Wang TianTian

By Zhao Xia

On the south side of an alleyway, near the north-west exit of Dongzhimen subway station, there is a small and simple tea shop, named Tian Ji Tea Shop. Everyday, many common people visit here. Their patronage is not for tasting first-class tea or playing the peacock, what they would do is infuse an ordinary pot of tea, sit around a simple tea table, and chat with the shopkeeper. To both guests and shopkeeper, it has supplied a place for talking more than a place for drinking tea.

"To have so many old friends here everyday is the happiest thing for me even if I feel busy and a little tired sometimes." The shopkeeper of the Tian Ji Tea Shop, Tian Qilong said. At 86, with only several incisors and skin and bones left, Tian is still clear-minded. He would like to sit on his wheelchair, with a pot of tea, chatting with old guests.

With busy adult children, many senior citizen in Beijing have to face the problem of solitude and loneliness. They need communication and spiritual ballast to distract their minds. Tian Qilong solved this problem by opening a tea shop, his personal experiences became stories to attract old people, who can recollect similar times and to interest the young, who can imagine them.

Leave Home For Half Barrel Of Water

Tian Qilong was born to a common family in Beijing. In 1920s', the more members one family had, the more prosperous and stronger it was. There were three generations living in one courtyard house together. In his family kingdom, the severe grandfather owned sovereign power. Children did not dare to speak or laugh loudly at home. "My childhood was lived in an almost silent world and my joy as a child was deprived by that tedious family, which made me depressed until it burst out one day." Talking about his childhood, The expression in Tian's eyes dimmed, but when one guest needed him to add water, his eyes shone again.

It was in the autumn of 1927 that Tian's grandfather decided to enlarge their house so that it could contain more family members. Without much extra money for builders, grandfather decided to make use of manpower of his own family.

Being a 12-year-old boy, Tian was not very strong and tall, but his grandfather assigned him to carry water.

That was a hot boring afternoon, for lack of strength Tian carried only half barrel of water. Once he entered building site, he saw his grandfather was standing in front of him, without any smile, glaring at him. He queried Tian why did he carry only half barrel of water. "I remember I said 'I had no strength for a whole barrel', then he shouted at me 'Did you have strength for dinner?' My self-esteem was hurt. At that moment, all my oppression burst out. As a young and impetuous teenager, I threw down the barrel, said 'Without your dinner, I could also continue to live' and turned away. I never did regret my behavior but

was happy that I escaped from those oppressive circumstances." Tian recalled his childhood in a drastic tone; visitors in his tea shop were attracted by his loud narration. "Yes, my grandfather was also very inflexible. I hope we do not leave such impression in our children's minds." An unidentified old guest commented.

Peddling Peanuts

"Cooked peanuts, appetizing and steaming hot peanuts." Every day, people could hear this child's voice echoing alone in the street, from nightfall till midnight.

In those days, many rich people would like to play mahjong or play cards in mahjong shops, gathered in business streets, they might play till midnight and need a midnight snack. Tian found this was a good market. Since he had made a decision to make his own living, Tian Qilong, this fractious boy would not apologize to his grandfather and decided to complete his promise by peddling peanuts.

After leaving his home, he moved to live with his grandma. Every day after 8 pm, Tian started to peddle his goods. Every night Tian had to walk in dark streets, enter every kind

But the labor class was the lowest one at that time. No one would respect us. Grandma was the only person that I could speak with until I married." Tian remarked.

Nightmares

Nowadays, most people in their 60s would have children, even grandchildren, and lead a serene and pleasant life. But for Tian Qilong, his nightmare had just begun. That was in 1969, and Tian was 54.

During the Cultural Revolution, Tian was inexplicably considered to be a critical target. In order to force him to admit his mistake, Tian was treated unfairly in public. Tian could bear this torture, unfortunately, his eldest daughter was frightened into an epileptic fit after seeing her father's adversity. "She was only 16, a lovely and intelligent girl. That was my biggest regret." Tian said in a miserable tone.

Since Tian would not submit and confess his guilt, the whole family was transferred to Huairou, a village at north

Lasting Tea Aroma From Alleyway



Japanese friends came to visit his tea shop also.

In 2001, Tian's tea shop has emanated its aroma from alleyway for 21 years.

"I did not care how big or how famous my tea shop was, what I hoped was it could really be convenient for old people. That's enough." With these words, an old customer came in, greeted as usual. No more words, Tian's wife served him a pot of green tea and a dish of green soybeans as always. Every old person's isolation disappears when they enter Tian Ji Tea shop, and the smiles on everyone's aged face are lit red in the sunset.

Tian Qilong's Secrets For Longlife: Four More And One Less

More exercise: this is a basic principle.

More chatting: to chat with others could exchange ideas and follow the speed of development.

More eating vegetables: old people absorb more nutrition from vegetables than from meat.

More drinking tea: drinking tea frequently cleans up grease from the stomach.

Less eating meat: eating less meat, not none. A little amount of meat is necessary.

① Sitting outside his tea shop, Tian Qilong is recalling the past time.

② These petty food is popular in guests.

③ "How are you today, my old friend?"

Photos by Zhuang Jian

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edge of Beijing.

It was a small, remote and uncultured village. Several leaders were the 'emperors' in the village. There were many more boys than girls there, which caused another nightmare to Tian because Tian had three daughters. The 'emperors' decided to take them to be their child brides. Since tender persuasion was unsuccessful, they found other ways to try to force Tian to give up voluntarily.

Late one night, the Tians had fallen sleep. Suddenly, a rock smashed through a window and woke everyone. But they did not see any one when they went out to investigate. Such incidents began to occur every day. Past endurance, Tian decided to fight back. One night, Tian hid behind the door and others pretended to sleep. Hearing a banging on the door, Tian pushed the door suddenly and rushed out, he caught one of the three children. As he expected, there was no punishment for these boys. Tian knew those three children were sons of "emperors" who were sent by their fathers, and the aim was



to take Tian's three daughters.

Since the family did not obey the leaders' orders, the result was to be isolated. No villagers dared to speak with them; everyone would stay clear of their house when they passed by. Light from Tian's windows shone lonely in the remote village.

From A Millstone To A Tea shop

After returning to Beijing, Tian's three daughters were

grown up and had their own families. With three children's financial support and pension from government, Tian and his wife had a good life except for the attacks of loneliness. "I could not stay at home, watching TV, reading newspaper and speaking only with my wife. I did not need to be quiet any longer. I had tasted isolation too long and would never live without friends." This was Tian's original motivation for opening a tea-shop.

With only a millstone, four chairs and a big teapot, Tian opened his tea business in 1980. "This simple equipment attracted many old-aged neighbors who also felt alone at home. We were all glad that we had a place to chat." Tian talked about his first 'shop' happily.

With more and more guests, Tian enlarged his stall from a millstone to a tricycle, later he set up his own tea shop in an alleyway, with simple tables and chairs, simple teapots and cheap price. Being well-known for his simplicity and his popular style, many guests became regular customers, and some

By Miao Yajie

With the last lot, a piece of Qing's cut embroidery, to its new owner, the three-day six special auctions, hosted by one of the leading auction companies - Beijing Hanhai Art Auction Corp., lowered the curtain on 2 July in the ballroom of the Jingguang Center. The total volume of business reached 115.3 million yuan, a record high in the history of the auction market in the Chinese mainland, and is by no means inferior to the \$106.4 million HK dollars of the April auction of Sotheby's Hong Kong. The final hammer blow also concluded the long spring auction season starting in April in Beijing.

The six special auctions, Chi-

ment. Some of the buyers who were determined to win discarded the bidding steps of prices, and shouted out their own base prices, which were much higher than Hanhai's base prices. The atmosphere continued to boil, and after most of the 18 pieces went to one buyer, lot 435, a hanging scroll named "Geese" was under the hammer. The piece in ink and color on paper, in a rarely seen large size of 101cm by 82cm, was by Xu Beihong in 1939. Starting from the base price of 380,000 yuan, in less than a minute, the price surged up over to 1 million yuan, and only two buyers in the back seats were left. Each time one added 50,000 yuan, the other followed up with 10,000 yuan more. Many in the ballroom stood up and turned back to the two buy-

a Taiwan collector, according to Hanhai sources.

Another moment comparable to this hot scene occurred during the auction of a rare under-glaze blue and red bottle vase (height 51cm) with a "Made in the Reign of Emperor Yongzheng of the Qing Dynasty" character mark (1723-1735). The small damage on the rim didn't hurt the buyers' zeal. The estimated price was 2.8

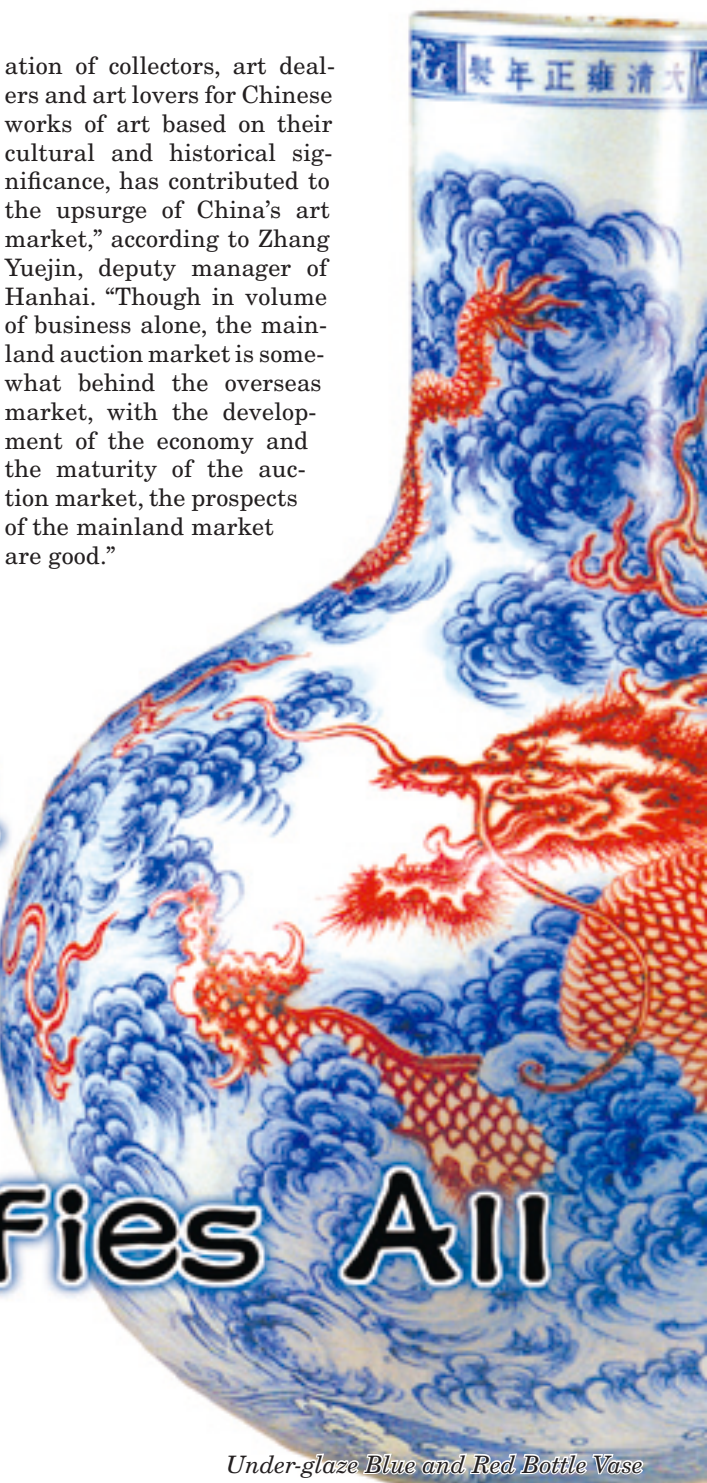


Photo by Huang Xuyun

calligraphy by Zhao Mengfu, one of the four master calligraphers in the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368). This piece in running and regular script was written in 1318. It was owned by a Japanese collector for a long time and reappeared at Sotheby's Hong Kong in 1999 and was bought back to Beijing at \$4,420,000 HK dollars. After dozens of bids at the spring auction of Hanhai, this piece went to its new collector at 6,820,000 yuan. According to experts, the general low price for calligraphy shows that the collectors' recognition of the value of works of calligraphy needs to be adjusted.

The three-day auction was like a feast to all the collectors and art lovers for they could preview all the treasured articles which are rarely seen in public, it didn't mat-

ation of collectors, art dealers and art lovers for Chinese works of art based on their cultural and historical significance, has contributed to the upsurge of China's art market," according to Zhang Yuejin, deputy manager of Hanhai. "Though in volume of business alone, the mainland auction market is somewhat behind the overseas market, with the development of the economy and the maturity of the auction market, the prospects of the mainland market are good."



Under-glaze Blue and Red Bottle Vase

Top-notch Art Work Finds New Home Hanhai Auction Satisfies All

nese paintings and calligraphy collected by Taiyi Gallery, Chinese modern & contemporary paintings and calligraphy, Chinese classical paintings and calligraphy, Chinese rare books, Chinese jade carvings, Chinese rare curios, each has its own highlights beside the great volume. The highly anticipated articles did not disappoint the sellers or the buyers, Hanhai as well as the participants.

The two most exciting moments for all were during the sale of modern and contemporary paintings and calligraphy. 475 lots were on sale in over five hours fierce competition beginning at 1:30pm on 30 June. When the auctioneer began to auction the 18 pieces (17cm by 11cm) created by one of the most renowned master painters Xu Beihong in Singapore in 1939, the ballroom with over 400 buyers seethed with excite-

ers with cheers and applause. Obviously the two buyers knew each other because one buyer shouted furiously at the other, using his surname, and gave up reluctantly at last. The hammer knocked at 175 million yuan, almost three times over the estimated price.

The ballroom resumed its normal tranquility and enthusiasm with most of the lots finding their new masters accordingly. And in this relatively quite atmosphere lot 651, the piece with the highest estimated price, came up for sale. The Three Peaks of Huangshan Mountain (181cm by 66cm) is by Zhang Daqian, one of the most talented painters in the 20th century whose painting has consistently broken price records in recent years. The purchase price was 374 million yuan. The buyer may be

million to 3.8 million yuan, and the price climbed up quickly from the starting price of 2 million yuan. When it came to 6 million yuan in just a few rounds, two buyers remained, one in the front seats and one young man with whiskers standing at the back of the ballroom. All the other buyers by then became spectators and stood up to applaud amid exclamations of "bravo": 7 million yuan, 8 million, 8.2 million, 8.8 million, 9 million, "buyer 233 offered 9.5 million yuan," the auctioneer announced. He then asked the other buyer, "Do you want to add more?" Cheers and applause echoed in the ballroom. "Hush!" The auctioneer looked around to make sure that there was no new offer for this piece, "Bang!" The hammer fell down.

What is worth mentioning is a work of

ter who finally possessed the articles, and the outcome no doubt made the Hanhai people proud.

The volume of business for the first auction, Chinese paintings and calligraphy collected by Taiyi Gallery, was 4.04 million yuan with a business rate of 71%. The modern and contemporary paintings and calligraphy sold at 78% with the volume of business up to 25.15 million yuan. The volume of business for classical painting and calligraphy, rare books, jade carvings, rare curios was 31.49 million yuan, 4.12 million yuan, 10.48 million yuan and 40.03 million yuan successively.

"The final hammer announced that the price for the Chinese work of art has stepped out of its long-time low. The interest shown by domestic museums and enterprises, the new record created in Hong Kong, and the increasing appreci-

Top Ten Chinese antiques in Spring Auctions 2001 Beijing & Hong Kong		
Item	Purchase price	Vendor
1. Carved Lacquer Round Box with Peony Flowers (1403-1424)	\$ 12,145,000	Christie's HK
2. Western Style Enamel Yellow Vase with Animal Ears (1736-1795)	\$11,925,000	Christie's HK
3. Under-glaze Blue and Red Bottle Vase (1723-1735)	¥ 10,450,000	Hanhai Beijing
4. Gourd-Shaped Blue and White Flat Vase (1403-1424)	\$8,624,750	Sotheby's Hk
5. Fun With Lantern by Zhu Yu (960-1279)	\$7,524,750	Sotheby's HK
6. The Ballad of Solitude by Zhao Mengfu (1254-1322)	¥ 6,820,000	Hanhai Beijing
7. Waterfall at the Autumn Mountain Valley by Fu Baoshi (1904-1965)	¥ 6,710,000	Guardian Beijing
8. Queer Mountain Pine Trees by Fu Baoshi (1904-1965)	\$6,094,750	Sotheby's HK
9. Travelling in the Mountains by Wang Hui (1632-1717)	¥ 5,995,000	Hanhai Beijing
10. Blue and White Flower Plate (1426-1435)	\$5,544,750	Sotheby's HK
* ¥ for yuan, \$ for Hong Kong dollars.		

Dazu Rock Carvings Begin World Tour

By Miao Yajie

The Dazu Rock Carvings, equally popular as the Dunhuang frescos, have arrived at the Museum of Chinese History in Beijing for a one-month exhibition starting from 25 June.

The Dazu Rock Carvings generally refers to all the rock carvings in the steep hillsides of Dazu County, Chongqing municipality, dating back from the 9th to 13th centuries. Put under conservation and protection are 75 spots of cliffside carvings composed of more than 50,000 statues and over 100,000 Chinese characters in inscriptions and epigraphs.

"During its long history, Chinese grotto art developed unique forms and connotations at different periods of time. The representative carvings of the early period (during the 4th and 5th century), are the Dunhuang and Yungang Grottoes. The representative carving of the middle period (during the 6th and 9th century), are the Longmen Grottoes. Dazu Rock Carvings, as the masterpiece of the late period (from the late 9th century to the mid-13th century), made many advances from its predecessors in terms of subject, artistic form, modeling technique, and aesthetic taste. On 1 December, 1999, UNESCO



Photos by Huang Xuyun



Avalokitesvara with thousand arms

included rock carvings from five places in Dazu County on the World Heritage list, "said Tong Dengjin, vice curator of the Dazu Rock Carvings Museum.

The official bulletin of UNESCO reads that "They are remarkable for their high aesthetic qualities, for their rich diversity of subject matter, both secular and religious, and for the light that they shed on everyday life in China during this period. They provide outstanding evidence of the coming together of Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism in a harmonious synthesis."

The five places on the world heritage list are Beishan (including Beita),

Baodingshan, Nanshan, Shizhuanshan and Shimen-shan rock carvings.

Each place has its own distinguished characteristics.

One of the most remarkable niches is 136 at Beishan, the cave of the Prayer Wheel, which is known to artists as the elite and the best example of carvings in the Song dynasty. Not only do the figures in it remain intact, but they are very nicely and exquisitely carved. It is also known as the "Collection of Oriental Beauties" for the various personified gods and goddesses. In particular, statue of Samantabhadra, praised as the "Oriental Venus", has characteristics of the oriental woman, and its expression is gentle, soft, refined, natural, and poised.

Exhibition of "The World Heritage — Dazu Rock Carving" brought 14 originals, over 20 duplications in their original sizes, and over 100 large transparencies to fully display the abundant cultural connotation and unique artistic charisma of the Dazu Rock Carvings. It will continue in its tour to Shanghai, Guangzhou, Macau and Southeast Asia.

Profiteer in Chinese was a term with a strong sense of derogation when it first appeared in the early 80's. In Beijing dialect, the word was pronounced with an "r" between the two characters: "Daorye" (dao is the falling rising tone, ye is the light tone) or simply "Daor" to emphasize the attitude of the speaker. Actually, profiteer is an interesting economic phenomenon, worth serious study, in the drive of China's development in the last two decades.

Busybodies summarized a so-called "18 ways to get rich quick", and profiteers including official or bureaucratic profiteers were listed on the top. Indeed it was a popular saying among people. Items like beepers and cellular phones, when they made their debut in China's market, were also in their business scope. In short, where there is something wanting, there is a profiteer. Some jokingly refer to the "headhunt-

er" as "profiteer". They say that the profiteers of the first generation speculated in clothing, the second generation in color TV sets, the third generation in computers, the fourth generation, the headhunters, in talent. With the rapid development of the dotcomer, domain name (DN) profiteers emerged, they are busy cloning, counterfeiting or even rush-registering famous brand names as web sites in order to demand exorbitant amounts of money from those brand name owners.

It goes without saying that some profiteers are doing illegal speculation, but the merits and demerits of the profiteers can be left to historians and theorists. As far as the common Beijingers are concerned, profiteers of the first generation in the early 80's in some way beautified their life, and beautified the capital which had been grey for more than a decade.

In the 90's:
Profiteer
"Hi! Have a look. It is a real Motorola, a foreign product. These days, it is very popular. Or, you can buy a mobile phone. It's not expensive, only 30,000 yuan. Look at you! A man of consequence, in fashionable clothes. What you need is something in your hand."



Read Hutong

survival of the natives of Beijing, which helps the formation of Beijing culture.

Hutong to the natives of Beijing is like what coral reef is to the marine aquatic animals. Hutong provides an environment for the survival of the natives of Beijing, which helps the formation of Beijing culture.

By Yang Xin

Prep School for "Work-Study Movement" Renovated



Photo provided by Culture&Relics Bureau, Fengtai District

By Miao Yajie

More than 100 students from Hebei, Shanxi, and Hunan provinces spent the summer of 1918 at a two-story French-style building, located inside the Changxindian Railway Middle School, Fengtai District, learning French and some industrial skills such as casting, mechanism, and bench work. As their study finished in the winter of 1919, the students went to France and joined the "Work-Study in France Movement".

The former site of the preparatory school for the movement finished renovations and opened to the public on 28 June.

With the urging of the October Revolution in Russia and the May 4th Movement in China, the "Work-Study in France Movement" entered into an upsurge period in the spring of 1919. A large number of young intellectuals devoted to reforming China participated in the westbound contingent. By the end of 1920, about 2000 students from 19 provinces went across a vast ocean and arrived in France. Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping were among those students, some of whom later became the backbone of the People's Republic of China.

Chapter I of *Yulanbian*

by Meng Hui

He slowly ascended onto the grass-covered wall, where he stared at the sprawling and heavy shadow of the great halls and buildings shrouded in the darkness of night. At the southwest corner of the royal compound, lights started sparkling in one after another courtyards, so fragilely that it seemed they would be blown off by the dawn breeze anytime. The lights were put on by the ladies-in-waiting who had risen early to dress and make up. He sneaked down from the wall silently and crossed the slow-flowing water of the canal. In just a moment, he disappeared behind the wood of poplars, willows, peach and plum trees. The twinkling lights flickered through the space among treetops to lead him out of the deserted wood. He glided convolutedly through one after another walls, corridors and courtyards. Whatever courtyard he passed, he saw nobody except the lush flowers, grass and trees as well as the collapsed rockery. In the end, he saw her slender shadow on the white window screening. After staring at the window for a while, he gently climbed up the ladder on the other end of the corridor, where the paint already started peeling off. He entered the western chamber on the second floor of the Qixiang building and closed on to her. Lady Liu Zhenfeng was sitting in front of a silver mirror which had the cold shine of the moon, trying to put up her thick and dark hair into a bob on top of the head. Suddenly, she spotted a small golden snake lying in a twine on the silk cloth beside the painted dressing case. Lady Liu was taken aback for a second, but soon calmed down.

"You got up so early. Are you hungry? One second, I will send for some sweet-smelling rice with honey for you. It's really sweet-smelling," she said in a comforting voice. At this moment, the bedroom door was pushed ajar with a creak by the maid Zier, who walked inside with a plate of newly-gathered flowers that still had dew on them. She came in just in time to catch what Lady Liu said and was befuddled. Then she spotted the small snake and her eyes widened in surprise. After seeing Lady Liu wink at her, Zier got it and immediately stepped out of the door quietly.

Lady Liu sat quietly, with both arms up and two hands holding the almost done bob, and looked at herself in the mirror. This posture made her arms to start aching and numb very soon. But if she let it go, the bob that had taken her an hour to do would loosen up. The day was breaking soon and she would not have another hour to redo the hair. After a peep at the golden snake lying beside the dressing case, she couldn't help herself and reached out her right hand for the silver hairpins in the dressing case. The small snake raised the head and stood erect, with its entire body shining like a firebug with a golden glamour that brightened up the silver pattern on the body. It looked extraordinary scary, with the diamond-shaped eyes giving out the blue shine of luminous beads and the golden forked tongue reached out hissing. With her hands trembling, she picked up two silver hairpins. With a clear tinkle, the hairpins collided with other

hair adornments in the dressing case. She almost fainted at this and thought the golden snake would soon launch an attack. The obviously frightened snake wavered a little bit and seemed to attempt an escape. But it soon returned to the previous posture, standing erect stillly and staring at her. ...



Photo by Huang Xuyu

Ancient Moral Creates Beautiful Stories

by Xiao Xia

Meng Hui made her debut in literature with her novel *Yulanbian* in January this year. In the fame-bringing novel, Meng Hui showed us an ancient moral world, in which her words create beautiful stories.

Yulanbian tells the story of an imperial family of the Tang Dynasty of 7th century AD and the conflict between Prince Yi and his grandmother Wu Zetian, the first and only empress in Chinese History. Wu seized the crown from her husband and forced her sons and grandsons change their surname from Li to Wu, which seemed intolerable in the patriarchal Chinese society.

"The characters in my novel don't care about universal fraternity, human rights, equality and humanity," Meng Hui said. "Their moral concept might now be wrong and out-dated, but it is beautiful for a man to hold to his moral concept throughout his life in spite of huge difficulties." In the novel, Prince Yi tries

to re-gain the fame of his father's name under the pressure of the cruel grandmother. "Different from modern individualism, what ancient morals stand for are such concepts as filial piety and family fame rather than personal interest." As Prince Yi challenges the power of Wu Zetian with his moral power, Meng Hui challenges individualism with her novel. "The purpose of an artist is to challenge the beliefs of today" Meng Hui said. She did not necessarily condone the ancient moral beliefs, but did use their beauty to criticize modern individualism.

Meng Hui also took advantage of being an expert in the history of art in illustrating a picture of the oriental imperial life of 7th century in her novel. According to her, the only word that can describe it is uncompetitive luxury. The portrayal of the world at that time is another charming aspect of the novel. A sentence from Empress Wu Zetian gives a good example. "Do any sons of King of Per-

sian still live in China? If so give them a post in the government." People at that time were filled with pride because of the wild territory and the high civilization, according to Meng.

As a first novel, this book has achieved a comparatively good market-profit. Since January this year, a large percentage of the 10 thousand copies have been sold. Though Meng Hui insisted that her book would only be accepted by "a small circle of people", her focus on Chinese culture and her challenge against modern individualism and so-called western orientalism have caught the attention of readers.

Illustration of *Yulanbian*, the Writer's Publishing House

Getting Closer to the Ancient Soul

by Li Jingze

In his dream, a young man of the royal family in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) transforms into a golden snake to visit one of the emperor's beautiful but lonely concubines. The beautiful lady is surprised to see a tangle of golden threads in the snake's mouth every time it drops in. ...

This might remind some readers of Borges Jorge Luis or even the Ariadne's reel of thread. Borges is known for creating such philosophic suspensions. His famous *Labyrinth* has already been trod many times by many Chinese writers, including Meng Hui. However, Meng's strange idea for *Yulanbian*, instead of originating from Argentina, has actually risen from a hidden corner of the long-shelved Chinese tradition: From *The Legends in the Tang Dynasty to Dream in the Red Mansion*, ancient Chinese novelists have revealed numerous fasci-

nating imaginations on the previous life and this life.

That is why I was willing to finish *Yulanbian*. Like Mo Yan's *Sandal Penalty*, Meng's novel also throbs in an eagerness to return to the native culture and tradition. Both of them have been trying to prove that it is possible to write as a "real Chinese in cultural sense."

Yulanbian is written in a smooth and meticulous way, with its plots twisting like the complicated patterns on brocade. If you stare at it long enough, you will find yourself completely lost in it. Although you are aware what has happened, you are bewildered how this has happened. The writer, who gives no explanation or analysis, merely shows us the movements of the characters and the plot.

Because of this, *Yulanbian* is up-setting. We as readers of modern novels hold that novelists have the

obligation to provide a rational explanation on each behavior, since even absurdness is believed to have certain crazy rationality. In this sense, *Yulanbian* is a problematic novel. We have many reasons to suspect whether the writer has the capability to complete this story in a proper way. However, Meng, who should have foreseen how befuddled we will be, shows such an easiness and patience that upsets us even more. The platform for the whole novel is people's being torn between heaven and hell, which is revealed through a sudden magnification of a single incident.

Yulanbian is intertwined with such fundamental conflicts as loyalty and betrayal, lust and death, crime and penalty, save and fall. Since the May 4th New Cultural Movement in the early 1920s, the Chinese intellectuals have been searching for such extremity in the spiritual life of the Chinese nationality. While many have

failed, *Yulanbian* has successfully located it after incessant search. Meng has found that the Chinese in traditional sense have profound understanding for living on those edges, which are paraphrased in their particular vocabulary and visions. What Meng has been trying to do is to awaken these dormant and forgotten feelings.

Given this, *Yulanbian* is more an "archaeological" novel excavating the deeply buried Chinese soul than a "historical" novel. When reading the novel, you may just imagine that it is a traditional Chinese drama, in which the characters don't require any psychological analysis. On stage they expose their souls, unsophisticated souls that are merely part of a greater world. Those operas have a kind of infinite beauty, which is both extravagantly garish and incomparably succinct and cold.

Yulanbian is one of such dramas.

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Photo by Dong Ning

Rave Against the Great Wall

By Xiao Xia

Repeated beats resounded against the ancient bricks, arms waved in the moist air and hair swung in the rain. A rave party was held on the Jinshanling beacon tower of Great Wall, north of Beijing Saturday June 30. More than 500 people enjoyed the banquet of modern electronic music on the oriental wonder. As Cefiny, a French girl, said, "It's wonderful."

"If it did not rain, more people would have come," Xiao Weng, the DJ and organizer, said with regret. The rave party, a wild electronic music get-together initiated at the UK in the end of 1980s, was introduced to Beijing in 1997 in some of the pubs like Keep in Touch. Only around 200 to 300 foreigners joined the party then. After 4 years, the scale enlarged to thousands, high-classed rave clubs emerged, out-door parties also held,

even three times on the Great Wall. "But most Chinese have no idea about electronic music," said Xiao Weng. According to him, the reason lies in the lack of opportunity to get in touch with the modern music style and the potential resistance of Chinese culture to its imported counterpart. "The mass media reports too much on the pop stars and pop songs, which gives audiences

little choice in different styles." Xiao Weng believes that demand for all kinds of art and music will be raised, together with the improvement of living standard. More people with the same love of electronic music will share this party. Nevertheless, "the greatness of the Great Wall, the nature of the mountains and the music will for sure provide a feeling of difference."

Adapt Drama to Audience

By Zhu Lin

After presenting a series of realistic dramas reflecting modern life, the Mini Theatre of the People's Art Theatre introduces to the audience a Moroccan comedy. *The Spirit of Happiness* is the first Moroccan drama performed in Beijing, and will run from June 22 to July 6.

The Spirit of Happiness is a typical comedy rooted in Arabian culture. The story, which is about a poor man meeting his fortune by accident, has been performed around Arabian world and Europe, winning a great fame. Its young Moroccan director, Tounsi Abdelmagid is the

first director to bring *The Spirit of Happiness* to China.

Abdelmagid made a great effort to adapt this play to a Chinese audience. "The original version of this play has a more religious flavor," he said, "It is mysterious to Europeans, reasonable to Arabians, but may not interest Chinese people at the same level. So I reduced the religious part." There's also some added satire on modern society in the adaption. The line "How can you ever tell truth to your boss" successfully brings the audience's understanding laughter.

After watching the drama, Sun Qi, a drama fan from Tsinghua

University exclaimed he hadn't seen such an interesting drama for a long time. "I'm crazy about it!" he cried.

Being assured by his audience, Abdelmagid seemed very confident, "I hope to direct a French play in Beijing later on. I must adapt the drama to the audience."



Photo by Huang Xuyu

By Zhu Lin

"The goal of my music is to be accepted by the young, while enjoyed by the old," said Zhu Shaoyu, composer of the new adaptation of the Beijing Opera *Cai Wenji*, which was staged at the Chang An Grand Theatre on July 2 and 3. By speeding up the rhythm, the music satisfied the need for fast-food style drama.

This opera tells a story about a girl named Cai Wenji (177-?) of Han Dynasty, who was talented in music. At the age of 23, she was snatched by the northern Hun Tribe and married to Prince Zuoxian. The new adaptation of the story focuses on the love

For Youth or For Preservation

story between Cai Wenji and Prince Zuoxian.

Young people often complain that the rhythm of Beijing Opera is too slow to bear but certainly not this one. Both the story and the music of *Cai Wenji* is fast enough to hold young people's attention. But the speeding-up created a comic effect. When Cai Wenji cried out "My sorrow stretches miles' long", the music was still rushing forward, without a single taste of sorrow. "I don't focus on melody so much in my music," Zhu once said confidently, "Instead, I work a lot at the rhythm. Thus the audience would be more likely to accept the music."

As an ancient art, it is of great importance for Beijing Opera to be accepted by the young generation. Compared with the form of Beijing Opera, the emotions and traditions reflected by the opera count more. Is meeting the need of young people worth sacrificing the essence of Beijing Opera?

Icons' Cooperation

Tan Dun Meets Challenges from Zhang Yimou

By Zhu Lin

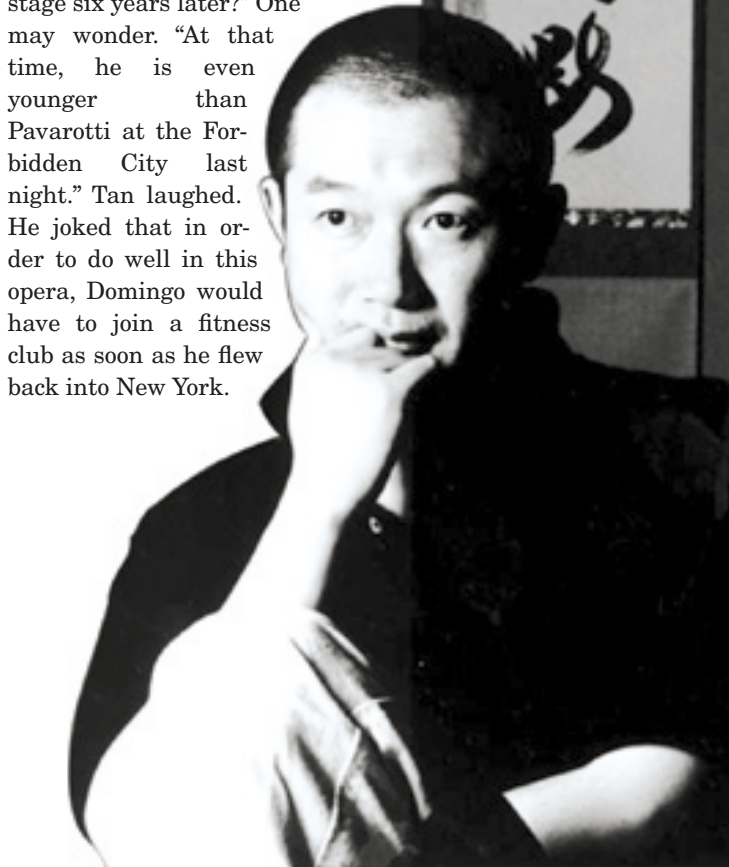
Photo Provided by Shi Cong

Tan Dun, the composer of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" said on June 24 that he would re-establish his collaboration with Zhang Yimou for three new compositions: the bid for 2008 Olympics, the film "Hero" and the opera "Qin Shi Huang".

As the most renowned Chinese artists, successful in transcending culture, Tan and Zhang's cooperation has a special significance. Zhang wanted to have Tan's presence in his bid for the 2008 Olympics, and has used his music as the thematic music in the program. Tan said he has been very excited ever since he arrived in Beijing on June 23, the Olympics Day, and has been busy talking about work with Zhang. "I had been thinking about doing something for the bid effort," he commented. Now Zhang has offered him a good opportunity.

After watching "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon", Zhang decided to invite Tan as the composer for his upcoming film "Hero". "I've known Tan for more than ten years," said Zhang, "Belonging to the generation passing through the Cultural Revolution, we have many things in common." It has been revealed that roughly eight or nine directors have invited Tan to write music for their films, but Tan chose "Hero", because he liked the playwright very much.

According to Tan, he has just accepted a contract by the Metropolitan Opera House in 2006 or 2007, a grand opera named "Qin Shi Huang". The story is about the Great Wall and Qin Shi Huang, the Emperor of Qin Dynasty when the Great Wall was constructed. It was reported that Domingo would play the role of Qin Shi Huang. "Can Domingo still perform on the opera stage six years later?" One may wonder. "At that time, he is even younger than Pavarotti at the Forbidden City last night." Tan laughed. He joked that in order to do well in this opera, Domingo would have to join a fitness club as soon as he flew back into New York.



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Photo by Chen Shuyi

Restaurant is My Work of Art

by Li Dan

For many a struggling artist, earning enough to keep themselves in paint and paper, let alone pay the rent, is a perennial problem. Old Character Hakka, a newly opened restaurant in Sanlitun is artist Chi Nai's solution, and also provides a space to hang his works.

As Chi himself says, "I opened the restaurant to earn money and allow me to continue my artistic career till I die." If you push open the big glass door, you'll find a crowded and noisy room, with walls covered in old style calligraphy. These characters, big and small, thick and thin, are the work of Chi Nai. He says: "I consider the entire restaurant as one of my works of art". The chunky, rough-hewn timber furnishings, the paper box lights, the abstract paintings and wooden carvings, and especially the delightful lampshade hanging from the ceiling made from a birdcage, are all evidence of the owner's creativity.

There are not many Hakka restaurants in Beijing. Hakka culture comes from Fujian, Guangxi and Sichuan Provinces. The food is simple, using lots of oil and salt. There is an emphasis on meat and fish, such as fish wrapped in tin foil and salt-crusted shrimps. You could also try Hakka Doufu (bean curd), a delicious looking and tasting dish. There is also a good selection of wines available, but be warned, it will lighten your wallet!

Add: walk 300 meters along the west side of Sanlitun North Bar Street from Dongzhimenwai Dajie; follow a large sign with an 'X'. It's next to X-Bar. Bus 115, 113 to Sanlitun. **Suggestion:** The food is authentic and not expensive, but you'd better take an interpreter. **Open:** 11am-12pm. Tel: 64153376.

Flags for All Occasions

by Jiao Pei

SLS (Shuang Long Sheng 双隆盛) Flag Products, opposite the east gate of Tuanjiehu Park, specializes, as you have probably guessed, in flags. SLS both manufactures and sells many kinds of flags, including the national flags of many countries. Inside the shop you'll find flags for every occasion; indoor flags, outdoor flags, pennants, ribbons and banners, flags for cars, flags to wave and flags for flagpoles. Prices



vary according to the size and material. As well as various companies, customers include embassies, soccer and other sports teams, and government departments. Individuals also buy flags for collecting and decoration. SLS made the first regional flags for Hong Kong and Macao, to be used in the reunification ceremonies. **Add:** 1F, Hui Xin (汇鑫), Chaoyang District, opposite west gate of Tuanjiehu Park. **Open:** 8:30am-5:30pm. **Tel:** 65940630.



Photo by Fan Xuedong

by Jiao Pei

On the 3rd floor of the Tian Huan (天寰) Market, near the east gate of the Temple of Heaven, is a nearly 20-year-old shop specializing in antique Chinese carpets. On the floor are piles of old carpets, up to a meter high, and more are hung on the walls. Carpets from different places have different typical colors, for instance those from Tibet are nearly always red and green. All the carpets are made by hand and dyed by natural colors, and many date back 100 to 200 years.

The carpets are collected mostly from the local people, temples and lama-series of Shaanxi, Qinghai, Xinjiang and Tibet.

Antique Carpets Tell A Story

Carpets were introduced into China along with Buddhism 1,800 years ago, during the Western Han Dynasty (206BC-AD220). Originally, Tibetan people wove pads from yak hair and wool for kneeling on when worshipping Buddha. Later, ordinary people started using carpets in their homes and weaving and processing skills developed accordingly. These skills proliferated during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) Dynasties. Carpets became important decorations in temples, at court and in the homes of the wealthy.

Every carpet is unique and has a story behind it, the shop owner Li Gang says. The oldest carpets are made of pure wool and the patterns are always dragons, tigers, lions, dogs and flowers, as well as

ancient Buddhist symbols and lamas in robes. The prices vary according to the age and size of the carpet, from 500 up to 40,000 yuan (US\$63-5,000). There are also cheaper reproductions available. **Add:** 316 3F Tianhuan Market, opposite the east gate of Tiantan Park, Chongwen District. **Tel:** 67180978. **Open:** 9am-6pm.

(CRAZY ABOUT DARTS

by Li Dan

The game of darts can be traced back to ancient times in Scotland. It is said that the Roman soldiers, sent by the emperor to the faraway British Isles, were not used to the damp weather there and when not at war, tried to entertain themselves with indoor activities. They invented a game that involved throwing arrows at a piece of tree trunk, using the annual rings as a natural target. The game soon became popular and was eventually picked up by the common people. Nowadays, darts is a popular pastime in many western countries.

Chinese people were first introduced to darts at the end of the 1980s. The game doesn't require much space and is suitable for people of any age. Darts fans in Beijing generally congregate in small bars, and the size of these places rather limits the possibility of holding big tournaments. However since April 28, Beijing's darts fans have established a new home. It is the first darts club in China and now has over 100 full members. Dart Bar & Club, by the North Gate of Beijing Worker's Gymnasium (Gong Ti), was established with the support of the

China Darts Association. There are ten international standard Harrows dartboards and eight electronic darts machines. This is a great place to improve your darts skills and meet other darts enthusiasts. Every Saturday a regular tournament is held, attracting many Chinese and foreign darts players. This tournament is a long term one for expatriate dart players. They have special prizes for players who shoot 180s, highest finish and fewest darts to finish. The 2nd Harrows Darts Tournament will be held on July 7-8 at Dart Bar & Club. Play will start at 1pm; entry fee is 30 yuan per person with a set of Harrows darts accessory. Pre-registration, closing July 6, is required. The format will be Round Robin 501x3, +Single Knock-out 501x5, Quarter Finals 501x7 and Final 501x9. Prizes worth a total of 40,000 yuan will be awarded to the top 32.

Add: Dart Bar & Club (镖霸俱乐部) North Gate of Beijing Worker's Gymnasium (Gongren Tiyuquan), Chaoyang District. **Time:** every Saturday night from 8pm. **Tel:** 65016655-5218.

Other bars for darts playing:

On Off Bar (上下线酒吧), two dartboards, tournament every Thursday night. **Add:** 1st floor of Lianbao Apartments (联宝公寓), Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 64158083.

Minders Cafe (明大吧), two dartboards (more available when necessary), tournament every Thursday. **Add:** Sanlitun South Bar Street. **Tel:** 65006066.

South Bar (南方吧), tournament every Tuesday night. **Add:** South gate of Chaoyang Park. **Tel:** 65082892.

Power Joint Pub (豹点酒吧), three dartboards, tournament every Thursday. **Add:** 84 Liangmaqiaolu, Chaoyang District, opposite Century Theater. **Tel:** 64688244.

R & B Cafe (阿华酒吧), three dartboards, tournament Tuesdays and Thursdays. **Add:** Sanlitun South Bar Street. **Tel:** 65025595.



Photo by Chen Shuyi

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Tax

on House Leasing

Decreased

by Jiang Zhong

In light of the readjustment of tax collection policies for the house leasing market released by the Ministry of Finance and the State Tax Bureau, publicly-owned houses whose rent is set according to relevant regulations of the government and the houses whose rent is relatively low will be exempt from house property tax and business tax; while the business tax, house property

tax and income tax on the lease of privately owned houses whose rent is set according to market demand will be decreased. Thus the overall tax on leasing of privately owned houses will decline from 17.5%-30% of the rent to 7.3%-14.57%. The following table illustrates how the tax paid by house owners has decreased after the issue of the readjustment policy, and also illustrates the possibility of a decrease in house rent. The policy went into effect in January 2001.

Tax rate on leasing of privately owned houses (before and after the issuing of the readjustment policy)

Monthly tax categories	Tax rate before issue of readjustment policy	Sum of tax after issue of readjustment policy	Sum of tax before issue of readjustment policy	Tax rate after issue of readjustment policy
800	17.5%	7.3%	140	58.4
1,000	18%	8.57%	180	85.7
1,500	23.3%	11.24%	349.5	168.6
2,000	26%	12.57%	520	251.4
3,000	28.7%	13.9%	861	417
4,000	30%	14.57%	1,120	582.8

by Wang Dandan

With the development and opening of China's domestic real estate market, it is becoming an increasingly common phenomenon for foreigners to purchase property here.

In the case of a mortgage purchase, although both the purchaser and the lending bank are non-Chinese, the laws and regulations of China regarding both the mortgagor and the mortgagee apply when carrying out the registration procedures of the purchased real estate.

According to Chinese law, both sides must go to the relevant real estate registration department to register the mortgaged real estate, or the mortgage will be deemed as invalid. The registration procedures of real estate mortgage for foreigners who purchase pre-sold commercial housing in Beijing are as follows.

Registration procedures

According to "Law of the People's Republic of China on the Administration of Urban Real Estate", "The Secured Interests Law of the People's Republic of China", "Administrative Measures on Urban Real Estate Mortgages" and relevant local laws and regulations of Beijing, the parties should go to the local real estate registration department in the vicinity of the property to register the mortgaged real estate within thirty days of the signing of the contract, according to Yan Ming, an officer of People's Court of Xicheng District, with several years experience in dealing with real estate cases.

Since the required documents for mortgage registration are rather complicated, and many

Mortgage of Commercial Housing



Picture by Li Yue

departments will be involved in processing them, the two parties to the mortgage usually entrust Chinese lawyers to carry out the mortgage registration for them. In this case, the mortgagor and the mortgagee could entrust two lawyers from one law office to act as their agents separately to go through the registration procedures. The main procedures of mortgage registration for real estate are as follows:

The mortgagee must submit the original attorney agreement together with a copy of the company registration certificate that should be notarized and attested in its locality.

What the mortgagor will do

The mortgagor shall (i) in the case of an individual, submit the original attorney agreement together with a copy of his or her personal certificate, which should be notarized and attested in its locality, (ii) in the case of a company, submit the original at-

pre-sold commercial housing for foreigners', the mortgage contract (original and two copies), a copy of the loan agreement, the 'Summary of the mortgaged real estate', and the lender's registration certificate, notarized and attested in its locality, should be submitted to the registration department and the registration fee should be paid.

All the above-mentioned documents should be written in Chinese. If they are written in a foreign language, they should be translated into Chinese and notarized accordingly.

After examination of the real estate mortgage contract and other documents and the property, the real estate registration department will make a record of mortgage registration on the mortgagor's 'Contract of pre-sold commercial housing for foreigners', affix a real estate mortgage stamp, and issued a Mortgage Registration Certificate of the pre-sold commercial housing to the mortgagor.

Time needed

It usually takes two months for the completion of the mortgage registration from the day both parties to the mortgage submit all the above-mentioned documents to the real estate registration department. However, it should be noted that when the mortgage has been fully implemented, the two parties must again go to the real estate registration department to complete the nullification procedures.

"HOUSING" welcome your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with?
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BEIJING TODAY
今日北京

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Activities

All in Red! Red party at On Off Bar. Women dressed all in red and guys in drag admitted gratis! Where: 1st floor of Lianbao Apartment (联宝公寓), On Off Bar (上下线酒吧), bus 115 to Xingfucun. When: July 8, 8:30pm-11:30pm. Tel: 64158083

Attention Darts Players Individuals and teams are welcome to play darts and meet friends here. There are two dartboards and players get a 20% discount on food. Where: Schiller's (山水之间音乐餐吧), West gate of Chaoyang Park, east from Chang Hong Bridge, turn left at second crossroad. When: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, around 8:30pm. Tel: 65931078

The Great Wall under the Curtain of Night Singing and dancing at the Badaling Great Wall Wangjing Cultural Plaza every Friday and Saturday. You can also have dinner on the Great Wall itself. Where: Badaling Great Wall, bus 919 from Deshengmen (德胜门) to Badaling. When: Now-Sep.30. Tel: 69121383, 69121017



Learn Tai Chi Free The Chinese Culture Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to introducing or teaching traditional Chinese culture and customs. It holds monthly parties or courses targeting expatriates in Beijing as

well as the younger Chinese generation. Siao Weijia, a practitioner of martial arts with thirty years of experience and training will conduct a TaijiQuan (Tai Chi) Class. It is free, you only have to pay the fee to enter the temple Where: Dong Yue Temple (东岳庙), Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, opposite Disco Banana. When: 10am 12am, July 8. Tel: 8462-2081 for details

Carlsberg COOL Party Hot dancing, cool beer. Where: Club Vogue, 88 Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang District. When: Friday, July 6, 9pm Tel: 64165316

Fourth of July bash Delayed till July 7th (for the weekend!) at the CV Global Logistics Bonded Warehouse from noon till 7pm. Music by Afanti. Where: CV Global Logistics Bonded Warehouse. Free shuttle bus leaving every 30 minutes from China Resources Building. When: Saturday, July 7, 12am-7pm. Admission: 100 yuan in advance or 150 yuan at the door, Children 1/2 price (tickets available at any Starbucks, Pricemart, and Sammie's cafes, and Big Easy. Tel: 85192888 (American Club)



Music

Concert celebrating the 45th birthday of the China National Symphony Orchestra (formerly the Central Orchestra of China). Performed by the China National Symphony Chorus and the Children's Chorus of China National Symphony Orchestra. Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (July 6, 8, 10), Zhongshan Park and Beijing Concert Hall (July 7, 9) 1 Beixinhuajie, Liubukou, West Chang'an Avenue, bus 7 to Liubukou. When: July 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, 7:30pm. Admission: 30-260 yuan. Tel: 65598285

Costume & Music Show There will be a fashion show. The clothes branded ONLY will be presented on stage at the Loft. Where: The Loft (藏酷), 4 Gongtibeilu, Chaoyang District. Follow the sign board. When: Saturday, July 7, 9pm. Admission: 60 yuan. Tel: 65017501

Home of R&B and Hip Hop DJ Gomer & DJ Qian (resident). Where: VICS (威克斯), north gate of Worker's Stadium, bus 115 to Gongti. When: Fridays, 9pm till sunrise. Admission: 15 yuan. Tel: 65936215

Meeting of music fans The singers of Huana Records (华纳唱片)

) will give a performance. When: Friday, July 6, 9pm. 3rd anniversary of Rotting Corpse (Chenshi)'s founding. When: Saturday, July 7, 8pm-next morning. Where: Get Lucky Bar (豪运酒吧), Taiyanggong, east of the south gate of University of International Business and economics (经贸大学), near Taiyang Market. Admission: 20, 30 yuan. Tel: 64299109

By Jiao Pei, Li Dan
We are glad to receive your feedback. You can email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 65902522

Exhibitions

Tibet through Artists' Eyes Paintings by Yu Xiaodong (于小冬), Lu Tianning (鲁天宁) and Mayuan (马元). Where: Qin hao Gallery, Jia 38, Fangcaodibei, Chaoyang District, bus 28,120 to Fangcaodi, on the west side of the road. When: Now till July 12, 10 am-7 pm. Tel: 65074062

Red Gate's 10th Anniversary Named Clues to the Future, Red Gate Gallery's 10th anniversary exhibition featuring works by 15 Chinese artists, including Li Xiao, Guan Wei and Liu Fei. Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower (东便门角楼), Levels 1 & 4, Chongwen District. When: July 7 - August 29, 10am-5pm, Tuesday - Sunday; 10th Anniversary Party on July 14, 3pm-5pm. Tel: 65251005

Fourth Beijing International Gift and Home ware Fair Exhibition of top quality home ware designed in China. Where: 1 Jianwaidajie, China World Trade Center, bus 1, 4, 57 or subway to Guomao. When: July 5-8, 9am-4:30pm. Tel: 65078645/2

Children's Engravings children's printing works are on exhibition. Kids from 6 to 15 can join the print course. The tuition is 240 yuan for a month, 2 times a week.

Every time last 2 hours. Where: Hualai Gallery, 74 Donghuamen Dajie, Dongcheng District. When: till July 15, 9:30am-5:30pm. Tel: 65328128



Bronzes From Shaanxi Province A group of Zhou dynasty (1066B.C.-256B.C.) bronzes on loan from the Zhou

Museum in Shaanxi province is on show at the Sackler Museum, often described as "a secret museum of Beijing". Where: Arthur M. Sackler Museum of Art & Archaeology, Peking University. From the west gate, walk across the small bridge, turn left and head north toward the buildings just past the large quadrangle.



The entrance is on the south side. When: till August 30, 9am-4:30pm (except holidays) Admission: 5 yuan. Tel: 62751668 62757151

Photography from 1948 to 1964, Germany. Where: Beijing Art Museum,

Inside west Third Ring Road, opposite Shangri-La Hotel. When: July 10-25, 9am-4pm (open Tue to Sun). Admission: 10 yuan, 5 yuan for students. Tel: 68715071

Oil, Ink & Wash Exhibition Joint exhibition by contemporary Chinese artists. Where: Wanfung Gallery (云峰画廊), 136 Nan Chi Zi Dajie, Dongcheng District. When: Now- July 13, 9am-5pm. Admission: free. Tel: 65127338

Performances

Drama: Golden Fish Pond

Describes the new life of people who moved from single story houses to high-rise apartments. Where: Capital Theater (首都剧场), 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District. When: June 29-July 31, 7:15 pm. Admission: 60-150 yuan. Tel: 65249847

Exhibition of advertisements from all over the world

They include many wonderful ads, such as the first ad, the longest ad and the shortest one. The show will last 4.5 hours. It covers beautiful scenery of 5 continents, foreign customs. Where: The Great Hall of People, west side of Tian'an men Square. When: Saturday, July 14, 7:30pm. Admission: 120, 200, 300 yuan. Tel: 66081188

Wild Zebra The first great dance drama from Shanghai in new millennium, this 3 million yuan production is sponsored by Shanghai Dongfang TV Station. Where: Poly Theater (保利剧院), 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongcheng District. Bus 16 or subway to Dongsishitiao. When: July 13-17, 7:30 pm. Admission: 300-800 yuan. Tel: 65001188-5682

Beijing Opera at Huguang Huiguan

Performances include Shi Yu Zhuo (拾玉镯), Tian Nv San Hua (天女散花), Nao Long Gong (闹龙宫), San Cha Kou (三岔口), Dao Xian Cao (盗仙草). Where: Huguang Huiguan, 3 Hufanglu (虎坊路), Xuanwu District. When: July 6-12, 7:30pm. Admission: 100-180 yuan, 200, 380 box. Tel: 63518284

Movies

French Movie: Vatel

Director: Roland Toffe. 2000, 113 minutes. Where: Sculpting In Time, 45 Chengfujie, Haidian District. When: Tuesday and Thursday, July 10 and 12, 7:30pm. Admission: 10 yuan. Tel: 62521746

French Movie: Scorn (Qing Mie), 1963. It is one of the France New Wave movies from the 1950-1960's. Where: Everyday Bar (每天酒吧), the alley opposite the west gate of Beijing University. When: Sunday, July 8, 2:30pm, 7pm. Admission: 10 yuan. Tel: 62765724

Xiao Wu (小武) Director: Jia Zhangke. English Subtitles. 1998 A new-wave movie from mainland China. Where: The loft, 4 Gongtibeilu, Chaoyang District. When: July 8 and 15, 3pm. Admission: 10 yuan. Tel: 65017501

Weather

WEEKEND

Saturday, 7 July
Isolated showers
Max: 31C. Min: 23C.

Sunday, 8 July
Clear / cloudy
Max: 34C. Min: 22C.

NEXT WEEK

Monday, 9 July
Clear / cloudy
Max: 35C. Min: 23C.

Tuesday, 10 July
Scattered showers
Max: 33C. Min: 20C.



Wednesday, 11 July
Clear / cloudy
Max: 34C. Min: 21C.



Thursday, 12 July
Clear to cloudy
Max: 33C. Min: 23C.



Friday, 13 July
Cloudy to overcast, showers
Max: 31C. Min: 20C.



Saturday, July 7th
4 degree, not much wind, little influence on air quality.

Sunday, July 8th
2 degree, suspended particles easily dispersed.

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6856.9388

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朝阳区团结湖北口 3 号楼
11:40-14:00, 17:00-21:30
6852.4003

Bianyifang Roast Duck Restaurant
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Boat Tour to Old Times

by Jiang Zhong

A picturesque lake in downtown Beijing provides people of this northern city a chance to taste the life of southern China's water regions.

Qianhai Lake faces the back, or northern gate of Beihai Park. When night falls, River Romance(好梦江南), an entertainment company offering lake cruises, lights the red lanterns.

We spent no time waiting in the teahouse by the lake before we were led to our boat. On the jetty, boatmen wearing yellow vests and bamboo hats were chatting. No delay, the drinks and snacks we had ordered were laid on the table on the boat, and the two kerosene lamps hanging from the ceiling of the shelter were also lit. We climbed on board and took a seat, the boatman took his position at one end of the boat and with no more than three strokes of his oar, we were already far from the dock. It was around 8 o'clock then.

The noise of the people on the bank faded as we moved further from the lake shore, while the reflection of the lights and the red lanterns on the water became longer and longer. The gentle breeze springing up from the water surface cooled us down and the only sound was the creak of the boatman's oar. It seemed almost as though we were boating on a lake in a quiet city in south China. Approaching Yinding Qiao (Silver Ingot Bridge), we could see the outline of the Bell and Drum Towers. When we got to Yinding Bridge, the boatman told us that we could order some barbecued delicacies from the famous Kaorou Ji Restaurant without stepping ashore, the waiters would bring the food to our boat for us. However we already had more than enough food on board, so we declined this offer. At that moment another boat passed by, with a beautiful woman sitting in the bow playing sweet Chinese folk music on a pi-pa.

Then we took out our paper boats, lit the candles and fixed them in the boats, and each person making a wish, launched them and watched them float away.

River Romance has 22 boats at present, each big enough to carry up to ten people. All the boats are made in Baiyangdian, Hebei Province, a famous water region in northern China. Manager Feng Jinghua told us that many important foreign and domestic guests had visited them, including some of the CEOs of big companies and enterprises who came to Beijing for the Hi-tech Week.

Address: Qianhai Lake, Shishahai park. Take bus 13, 107, 111, 701, 810, 820 to Beihai Houmen Stop.

Admittance: 180 yuan for a boat (includes 10 paper boats!), cruise lasts a little over 1 hour. For an extra 100 yuan, a musician will accompany you to play Chinese folk music. Extra 80 yuan for barbecue food.

Preferential Cards: A 500-yuan Preferential Card entitles you to four boat cruises.

Other entertainment: During the day, visit the houses of Qing Dynasty princes, Guanghua Temple, the old residence of Song Qingling (wife of Dr. Sun Yat-sen). You can also combine the boat tour with a rickshaw hutong tour.

Tel: 64002728

Open: 9 am-10 pm

Photo by Chen Shuyi

Paddling for Pleasure

A few weeks ago, Beijing hosted its first ever Canoeing Marathon. Some 150 professional athletes, amateurs and celebrities, including members of the Beijing 2008 Olympic bid committee, participated. There are few opportunities for ordinary people in Beijing to take to the water in a canoe. Aquatic sports fans generally have to drive to the suburbs far away from the center of the city to find a suitable place to practice this kind of sport. But if, by chance, you find yourself with an afternoon off work, and are struck with an irresistible urge to take to the water in more than just a swimsuit, the Jinfan Houhai Waterborne Sporting Center(金帆后海水上运动中心), located in downtown Beijing, provides canoeing and wind-surfing facilities, if not quite up to Olympic standards, certainly good enough to for a few hour's fun.

by Jiang Zhong

The best thing about the center is that you don't have to get up before dawn on a Saturday or Sunday morning to make the long journey out to the suburbs, the outer-suburbs or the outer-outer-suburbs. I visited the center some days ago to see for myself what canoeing in a Chinese traditional park would be like.

This is the first and last time I play such game, I said to myself when I saw the narrow, sardine-shaped boat. "Should I go solo?" I asked Mr. Zhang, one of the managers of the sporting center. "Can you swim?" Mr. Zhang replied solemnly. "Why?" It sounded as though they were planning to throw me into the water! "I mean if you cannot swim, one of our professional coaches will canoe with you in case of an unanticipated incident". "You have a canoe for two? That's great", I said with a sigh of relief.

However, the participation of a professional coach did little to boost my confidence. It took me nearly 20 minutes to learn how to actually get into the canoe. The coach had to demonstrate the tricky procedure at least five times. "Support your weight with the hand holding the bank, grasp the middle of the front rim of the hatch with the other hand. At the same time place one foot that is closer to the canoe lightly and steadily in the central part of the hatch floor, then the other foot. Finally sit in the hatch and stretch your legs out in front of you. That's it, easy!" After making more attempts than I'm prepared to admit to, I eventually succeeded in sitting down in the canoe. The coach then showed me how to use the paddle, I was not sure whether I had caught the most important parts of his instruction, however that was not important, because the more I would use the paddle the more trouble

we would be involved in. The coach seemed as though saw through my heart, he ended his lesson and gave the order, "Paddle on your left side, so we will leave the bank".

The canoe was so small that even a light breeze was enough to make it change direction and cause me to worry that it might turn turtle. "I will follow your rhythm". The coach said behind me. "You mean to say I have a rhythm"? I responded incredulously. "You'll do much better in no time, just enjoy the scenery and relax". The coach encouraged me. I slightly

changed my pose, leaned back against the back support and relaxed my legs. Soon, my nervousness actually began to diminish.

I seemed to be picking up the knack of canoeing, and found it much easier to control. I counted each stroke to achieve a steady rhythm, so we had a fine cooperation for the rest of

the journey, my paddle didn't conflict with the coach's anymore. From the canoe, the lake seemed broader than its actual size. Some small elegant pavilions stand on both sides of the lake; willow trees touched the surface of the water with their slim fingers, and beneath the willows, old men sat with their fishing lines dangling in the water. What a charming Chinese painting, what a life, peaceful and free.

As we headed back, it was getting darker and darker and the wind had picked up a little. "We should paddle harder, so that we can reach the bank before the rain starts". The coach said, and I increased the frequency of strokes, wasting no time. I knew what a strong wind meant to a clumsy canoeist like me!

"You did well in the final two hundred meters", the coach said to me when we were on the bank again. "Thanks! I think I love this game now, I'll bring my friends with me next time". I said, collapsing with exhaustion into an armchair. When I had regained my strength sufficiently, I had a chat with Mr. Zhang. He told me that the center was established in September 2000, and that the general manager was once a professional canoeist. He also said that some foreigners frequented the center, and pointed to a tall European man sitting not far away. I also had a talk with him; he said he was from Sweden and now teaches at a Swedish school

in Beijing. He told me he comes to the center at least once a week, to go wind-surfing, and that he was then waiting for the wind to pick up. He asked me whether I knew of any other, larger lakes suitable for wind-surfing in Beijing, and said he had even tried wind surfing on Kunming Lake, at the Summer Palace.

The center has available for hire rowing boats, canoes and wind-surfers. You are not permitted to use your own equipment on the lake. Free training courses, life saving and life vests are also available.

Address: #81 West Bank of Houhai(后海西沿) Xicheng District, Beijing

How to get there: It is not difficult to find the center; take a taxi to Hou-hai Xi Yan (后海西沿), or to Song Qingling's Old Residence (宋庆龄故居), the center stands on the opposite bank of the lake, about 5 minutes' walk. The main building of the center is a traditional Chinese pavilion.

Admittance: Non-members: Windsurfing: 120 yuan per hour Canoe: 60 yuan per hour. Members: Windsurfing: 80 yuan per hour Canoe: 40 yuan per hour

Tel: 64012664, No English service available.

Open: For aquatic sports: 8 am-7 pm. For entertainment: 8 am - midnight

The center provides lockers to store your valuables in, and also sells beer and coffee. When you have finished your adventure in the center, you can

have lunch or supper at the nearby Kong Yiji Restaurant (Kong Yiji is a famous character from the Lu Xun novel of the same name.)

In Beijing there are some other aquatic sports centers offer canoeing, wind-surfing and the like.

Jin Hai Hu Lake (金海湖) lies 18 kilometers east of Pinggu Town, about 90 kilometers from downtown Beijing. The lake was used for the canoeing and kayaking events of the 11th Asian Games.

How to get there: bus 918 from Dongzhimen. Or drive along the Jing-shun expressway directly to Jin Hai Hu Lake in Pinggu County.

Admittance: 120 yuan per hr. for wind-surfing; 40 yuan per hr. for canoeing;

Tel: 6098 2184 No English service Open: 8 am-5 pm Accommodation available

Kai Bo Er Water Skiing Center(凯博尔滑水有限公司) features three lanes; 1,200 meters in length, 120 meters in width, 1,000 meters in length, 100 meters in width, and 800 meters in length, 180 meters in width respectively.

How to get there: The center is located west of Xi Guan Xiao Qu (西关小区), Changping County. Take the Ba Da Ling (八达岭) expressway and exit for the Ming Tombs (十三陵), drive 200 meters and turn west at the first ring road.

Tel: 89711088, 89702113

Open: 8:30 am-6 pm. The center doesn't supply canoeing or wind-surfing equipment.



Photo by Louge